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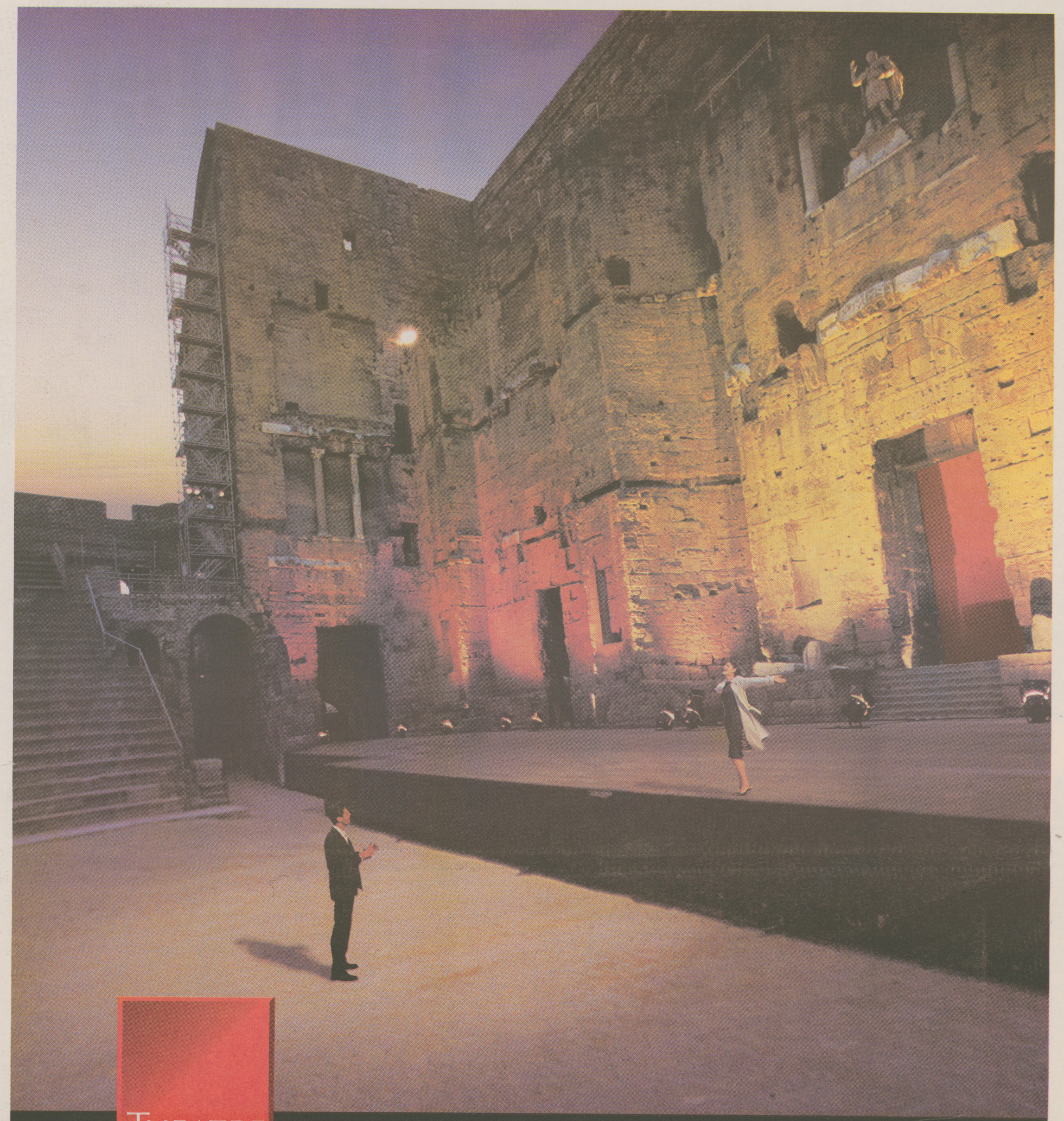

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Student Union Building workers speak out

by John Thompson

Simmering discontent between workers and management inside the Student Union Building (SUB) boiled to the surface recently, with some employees speaking out despite union representatives' concerns.

"We don't know whether to laugh, cry, or be extremely angry," said Lindsey Froland, who has spent three-and-a-half years working in the building, first in Food Services, then SUBText and now at Cinecenta's Munchie Bar. The fourth-year English student says changes implemented by the building's general manager, Marne Jensen, have damaged worker morale.

"It seems compassion has been lost," Froland said. "I understand the SUB's in dire financial straits, but it's not so dire anymore."

Dallas Henault, a fourth-year economics student and president of the BC Liberals club on campus, shares both frustration and workspace with Froland at the Munchie Bar.

Both say angry workers don't help sales.

"I'm fairly pro-business, but I don't know where they're pulling their ideas from," said Henault, referring to management's approach to negotiations.

Management wants to decrease layoff notice for food service workers from one month to two weeks, to adjust shifts when demand decreases. The union counters that student workers need more stability during their study period.

Some criticism from Froland and Henault is more personal.

"Marne doesn't have a degree, so where does her credibility lie?" Henault said, adding that the general manager's job description originally called for someone with an undergraduate degree and preferably a business designation, such as a CGA, CA or MBA. The job description was later changed so Jensen could be hired.

Jensen hasn't graduated from her undergraduate studies in economics, but she has a long history of involvement with the building. She served as UVSS director of finance for two years, beginning in 1991, and she sat on the bargaining committee in 1993 to negotiate the union's second collective agreement.

She went on to serve for two years on the national executive of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and was afterwards hired by the BC NDP, first as a researcher and later as a ministerial assistant, from 1995 to 2001.

Jensen said anyone doubting her credentials should look at the millions of dollars of funding from banks and the university she secured during her first months on the job.

The student union currently has a one-million dollar debt, and Jensen said she hopes for a $50,000-$100,000 surplus this year, without taking many risks.

She said rumours about her academic status—that she is on academic probation—are completely unfounded.

"No. Never," she said. "I took a couple Ns while on the executive, which is fairly common."

Jensen understands some cutbacks are unpopular, but defends management decisions—such as replacing two student jobs this fall with full-time employees—as necessary.

"There's nothing progressive about the students' society going bankrupt and the university coming in and running the building," she said. For the last 10 months of the fiscal year, ending in February, labour costs have amounted to 62 per cent of the building's gross revenue.

"That's double the industry standard," she said.

Jensen was hired in October 2001, after former building manager Doug Ausman was fired in the wake of the student union's discovery that their budget figures were out by hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Jensen added that if student workers want to become more involved in negotiations, they have options. The union has the right to sit on all board committees, except personnel and electoral. If student workers are interested in how decisions are made, she said they should begin attending these. From her memory, workers have only attended two finance meetings and one board meeting this year.

"Students simply don't show up to these meetings," she said.

The Steelworkers union has distanced itself from the employees' speaking out.

"It's just a case where there's a lot of upset employees, and they don't see any means of recourse," said President Andrew Buydens. "They're angry and frustrated, and some of them are going to lash out."

"We do not support personal attacks," he said. "We want to keep our relationship on a professional level."

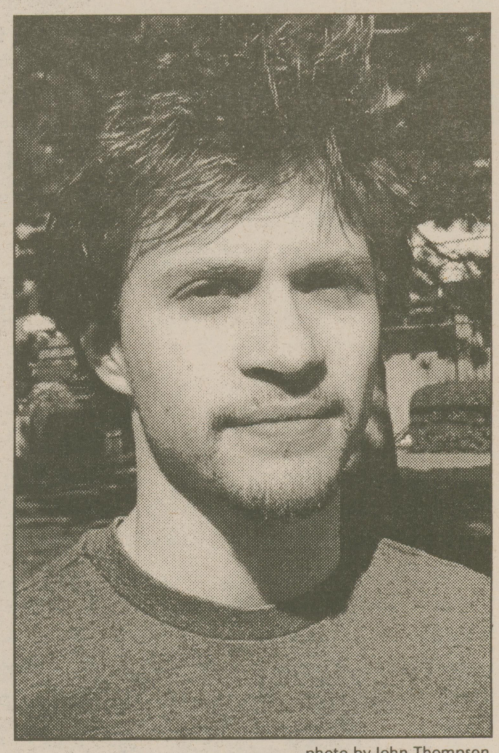

photo by John Thompson

Lindsey Froland says SUB worker morale has suffered from heavy-handed management.

Workers inside the building have been without a new collective agreement for over a year, although their current contract is still in effect.

UBC prof closes in on new treatment for cancer

by Carlos Sutter, Ubyssey

VANCOUVER (CUP) -- A new treatment for cancer may soon be a reality thanks to research done at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Wilfred Jefferies' immune system research may be the answer cancer patients are looking for.

"Cancer is a disease largely of the very immuno-suppressed," Jefferies said. These include people like the very young, who are developing efficient immune systems, or the very old, whose immune systems are degenerating. It also includes people on anti-transplantation rejection drugs.

"Our work has focused on how your immune system recognizes those cancer cells and detects them and then kills them," said Jefferies, a medical genetics and microbiology professor.

In the early '90s Jefferies made the observation that a large fraction of cancer cells were reducing the activity of a type of pump that generated small fragments (peptides) within transformed cells. These peptides within cancer cells may be unique and the immune system recognizes those differences and kills them.

"In the absence of those small differences, the immune system cannot recognize the cancer and the cancer is able to start dividing uncontrollably and without any recognition by the immune system," explained Jefferies.

"The next thing that we did was we put that pump, which is the normal functional gene that most of your body cells have, into cancer cells in order to try and resurrect recognition of the cancer cells by the immune system."

The pump or gene Jefferies refers to is called the TAP molecule (transporter associated with antigen processing). Jefferies' treatment expands TAP expression through a new vaccine which results in an improved expression of tumor associated antigens. This TAP technology allows the immune system to identify the cancer cells as "alien cells," and then destroys the cancerous cells.

Jefferies believes that this new discovery would work with many other therapies.

"I think it would work in conjunction with... chemotherapy, radiotherapy and other types of experimental therapies. It may be that TAP can work by itself or it may work to increase the effectiveness of other therapies," Jefferies said.

Jefferies works with a group of about 10 people exclusively on research regarding the fight against cancer. He has graduate students, undergraduate students, project students, post-doctoral researchers and technicians working on his team.

Qian-Jin Zhang, a research associate in Jefferies' Lab, believes that the clinical trials in the future will factor in candidates according to their age.

"My personal thinking is that possibly we will select the patients according to the age, maybe age is an important factor. Because for our technology actually based on the immunal response for old patients, the immunal response level is always less than the young ones."

Jefferies is hoping to start clinical trials on people with cancer within the next year. Jefferies has already received a U.S. patent for applying TAP to all types of solid tumours.

"[We're] hoping that when we re-introduce the TAP gene that we start getting [an] immune response... that kills and eradicates the tumours."

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Camping for peace: Victoria responds to Bush's war

by Robin Platts

Camping. For most of the world camping is recreation, but in Victoria it's recently become a form of activism.

Last Thursday night, as the U.S. bombarded Iraq with "Shock and Awe," activists set up a circle of tents on the lawn behind Petch Fountain—a "Peace Camp" to protest the war. The camp was the Students Against War (SAW) group's latest attempt to create a forum for discussion on the Iraq conflict.

Earlier in the day, more than a hundred students gathered between the fountain and McPherson Library to protest the war.

Justin Douglas of SAW said he hoped to see "more public support for people in Iraq. To show people care about the people who are going to be killed."

"I don't agree with bombing people that have been bombed for 10 years," said second-year biology student Hayley Merkeley. "I want to let people know that we're in solidarity with the people of Iraq."

On Friday afternoon, rain fell on the tent circle and few students were to be seen on the lawn by Petch Fountain.

"There's about 15,000 of them in there," joked UVSS director Andre Vallillée, before admitting that the tents were empty. "We started last night with nine people. A lot of times there's strength in numbers, but right now there's strength in dialogue."

Vallillée said the camp will remain "as long as the war continues. Hopefully through the relationships we build on campus, the discussion surrounding peace will continue in the future at UVic."

Downtown, activists from the Victoria Campaign Against War and Sanctions on Iraq (VCAWSI) set up another peace camp on Harris Green.

"It was a really good experience," said UVic student Emma Marshall, who visited the Harris Green camp Friday night. "Just to go there and sing a couple of peace songs was quite cathartic."

In contrast to the UVic peace camp, there has been a constant presence of people at the downtown camp—anywhere from 10 to 80 at any given time.

While Marshall described the mood of the downtown camp as "somber," the quiet was interrupted now and then by passers-by who weren't shy about sharing their views of the peace campers.

"A couple of people came past and said, 'Bomb the fuckers!' and 'It doesn't matter what you people do—it won't make a difference.'" Marshall said. "[The VCAWSI's] stance is that they don't react to that."

A peace vigil planned for Tuesday morning at UVic's peace camp was postponed due to a lack of students.

"Right now, it's really hard to get anyone to give a fuck," said Erik Haensel of SAW. "People just aren't coming out. They've got stuff going on. I think there's a feeling of 'It's happened—I'm going to go back to my life.'"

photo by Robin Platts

Student activist Ingmar Lee sends a message to George W. Bush at last Thursday's anti-war protest.

Haensel feels SAW will have to take a new approach in the coming days.

"Our tactics are going to turn more to bringing the message to students," he said.

"We haven't been outreaching as much as we've needed, due to a lack of time and people."

BC Transit service safe from cutbacks–for now

by Suzanne Beaubien

Victoria bus riders fearing more transit cuts can rest easy. BC Transit said recent rising gas prices will not result in diminished service.

Chris Foord, marketing manager for BC Transit, said oil prices have stabilized, clearing up uncertainty about the future of transit services in Victoria.

"We were starting to panic," he said.

Foord said there was a "tremendous" premium put on the price of oil in anticipation of the war in Iraq. Now that prices have leveled out at approximately $28 a barrel, transit will carry on as usual, he said.

"What we basically said was, when oil is $37 a barrel, there is no way you can absorb that cost without service cuts." Since the price of oil has gone down, Foord said Transit's "fears have been alleviated for the time being."

"What we're seeing is the same thing that happened in the Gulf War," said Foord.

Foord thinks there is a relationship between the price of gas and the number of riders on Victoria buses. "March is going to be a bumper month," he said. Ridership has gone up and preliminary figures show bus pass sales have risen by seven per cent since February, said Foord.

The only service cutbacks in the near future will be when exams begin at UVic and Camosun next month, said Foord. More details to come...

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Unions: the people that brought you the weekend

The road to Talgao

Two women follow their dreams to the Phillipines

by Mary-Louise Leidl

The new road planned for Talgao, a small mountain village on the northern island of Luzon in the Philippines, may still be a dirt trail when Jenny Griffin and Thia Bunker arrive in mid-May, but for these two anthropologists it's not a big problem. The five-hour hike into the village with packs and equipment is the final leg in a journey that began more than a year and a half ago.

"I feel I'm already there," says Griffin.

Recent graduates of UVic, Griffin and Bunker are participating in the Kalinga Curriculum Project, a community-based program designed to capture the oral histories and traditional knowledge of the Kalinga—one of the country's most remote and independent tribal societies—before it disappears. Television and transportation links have brought the outside world in, and elders watch with dismay as young people forget the old ways and take on the new mores of a dominant Western-influenced culture.

"It's a way of making sure this traditional knowledge is recorded in an accessible way," says Bunker.

Besides planting rice and hauling water, both women will have distinct roles. Griffin plans to record the elders' myths and songs via an interpreter, and Bunker, with her biology background, will spend much of her time working with a traditional medicine woman, learning the stories behind the healing properties of native plants. Kalinga educators will incorporate the material into the school curriculum while learning the anthropological research skills that both offer.

As for challenges, the villages and outlying areas they'll be visiting don't boast modern conveniences. "Sleeping rough is no big deal—it's just like camping," says Griffin. "But the toilet is the communal pigsty." Both she and Bunker have had shots for a half dozen diseases, including malaria. "We'll get malaria," grins Bunker.

The two women have put in long hours planning the project, as well as raising money for the trip and the year they plan to live there. Griffin is close to completing an eight-month co-op work term fundraising for the project.

"Fundraising is weird," she says. "You don't realize how much energy it takes to do this, but you become really focused."

They organized a "fun run" in February and bake sales, and wrote more than a hundred letters to foundations, service clubs and businesses asking for donations. A giant garage sale and Kalinga cultural event are scheduled for early April.

But they have lots of help, too. "Petra is our biggest resource," says Bunker. They also have three volunteers—a high school student and two UVic co-op students—who recently joined the team. "If they have the funds and the initiative to go, and they can create a project that's beneficial to the Kalinga, then (they're welcome to join us)," says Griffin.

Griffin and Bunker's immediate goal is to continue fundraising and to collect as much equipment as they can: school supplies, portable tape recorders and cassettes, Polaroid cameras and film, laptop computers, clothes and donations of money. The equipment will remain in the village for the use of the Kalinga community.

"We need pens for the students and chalk for the teachers," says Griffin. "Clothes too. Some of the kids run around naked. We'll take anything we can get!"

May 15 is their departure date. Needless to say, they're both excited. "(This is about) seeing what's really important," says Bunker. "Health of the community, relationship with family. (The Kalinga) can't get caught up with television and cars. They get their water from a stream and if something happens to it, they're all affected. We are so removed from that."

For more information on the Kalinga Curriculum Project visit http://members.shaw.ca/kcp_iat or e-mail Griffin and Bunker at kcp_iat@hotmail.com.

photo by David Durrance

A Kalinga woman with two grandchildren on the island of Luzon.

Colour Collective trains cameras on racism

by John Thompson

This Friday, the Students of Colour Collective will host a workshop on how to challenge racism with video cameras and other hi-tech gadgetry.

"It's not really a traditional workshop," said Sharmeen Khan, one of the organizers.

Every summer, the Access to Media Education Society (AMES) gathers on Galiano Island for a week-long crash course in video production. The product is a video documentary meant to tackle issues from racism to homophobia to climate change.

"They actually use media as a way to express themselves," Khan said, explaining that many social activists don't have this sort of training. "And to be creative as well."

Taver Rice from AMES will host the workshop, which will feature a video produced several summers ago that tackles the issue of racism.

"It was really beautiful and empowering," Khan said of the video.

The workshop will take place in the Grad Centre, room 108, from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., with refreshments provided.

For registration and more information, call the Students of Colour Collective at 472-4697.

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New Campus plan released

Ewok Village continues to expand

by Jeff Andrew

A new version of the Draft Campus Plan was released on Tuesday, March 25, promising environmental restoration projects, commitments to "Smart Growth" and green building practices and a 10-year moratorium on development in many of the forested areas of campus. Despite a lack of protection for all of Cunningham Woods, environmentalists greeted the news with cautious optimism.

"It's definitely a step in the right direction, " said Rae St.-Arneault, event co-ordinator for the POLIS project, an on-campus research group working to promote sustainable development alternatives.

The UVic Board of Governors will vote to approve the plan sometime in May. Once approved, it will guide campus development for the next 15 years. An open house is planned for April 8, to allow the public a chance to view and discuss the plan.

"We want to balance the interests of the building environment and the natural environment," said Jack Falk, Campus Development Committee chair and vice president of Finance and Operations. "It [the new plan] addresses more definitively the academic priorities, with the concerns of the community."

One major addition to the plan is its establishment of measurable goals, such as replacing invasive species with native plants, phasing out parking lots within Ring Road and creating an ecological map of campus.

"It's not only a guideline for the decision makers, it's a checklist for people to hold the university accountable," said Sarah Webb, a student representative to the CDC.

Webb said the additions to the plan are the result of feedback and consultations held with students, faculty and groups like the UVic Sustainability Project (UVSP). The new version includes a commitment to review the role and structure of the CDC, which has come under fire over a perceived conflict-of-interest relating to chair Jack Falk's concurrent duties as vice president of Finance and Operations. It also promises to hold ongoing reviews, updates and consultation with groups like UVSP and the POLIS Project as the plan is implemented over the coming years.

"We see a lot of potential for moving forward and building partnerships between students, staff and faculty that will allow for a holistic approach to sustainable operations at UVic," said UVSP representative Andre Valillee, who is also a student representative to the CDC.

Regardless, Cunningham Woods remains a major source of conflict. While the plan promises a 10-year freeze on the use of Cunningham Woods as a building site, construction for the new Engineering and Computer Science building will still require the removal of up to 20 metres of trees at the edge of the parking lot by the Engineering Lab Wing.

For the past three months, activists have remained perched in wooden platforms high atop the forest, in an effort to prevent trees from being cut. They say that while the new plan goes a long way towards meeting their goals, the tree-sit will continue until all the trees on campus are protected.

"It may be the most wonderful, jaw-dropping green plan in the world," said Ingmar Lee, one of the organizers of the tree-sit. "But if it means cutting another tract of forest in the meantime, well, I'm sorry. That's not good enough. We're not satisfied."

The activists received further support last week when, following a presentation by UVic student and former mayoral candidate Ben Isitt, the Oak Bay City Council wrote a letter to UVic President David Turpin raising concerns over the possible cutting of trees. In April, university administration plans to meet with members of the Oak Bay Council, which holds jurisdiction over the area in question, to discuss their current development plans.

Lee said the tree-sit continues to gain momentum—activists are booking volunteers two weeks ahead of time and are making plans for long-term sitters to maintain the space over the summer. There is also talk of setting another platform in a neighbouring tree and stringing ropes between the two, allowing sitters to "skywalk" around the roof of the forest.

Overall, activists said they're impressed by the advancements made in the new campus plan. "It's super-positive," said Rae St.-Arneault. "I never would have thought this would have happened 10 months ago."

St.-Arneault is helping to organize a workshop on sustainable campus development, to be held in the Student Union Building next Tuesday. Dubbed "A Celebration Of Possibilities," the event will feature live music, group discussions and presentations from speakers such as Joe Van Bellegham, an expert on green building practices and winner of the BOMA Earth Award.

"We're trying to encourage idea generation and positive solutions through discussion," said St.-Arneault. "It's important to be able to generate solutions. We're sharing real facts, real research and presenting it in a way that's understandable to the general public."

According to St.-Arneault, the event's focus will be on teaching, explaining the issues involved with sustainable development and hopefully bringing together ideas to create solutions.

"There's a lot of politics going around, but this is more about education," she said. "We're looking forward to it. It'll be a fun event."

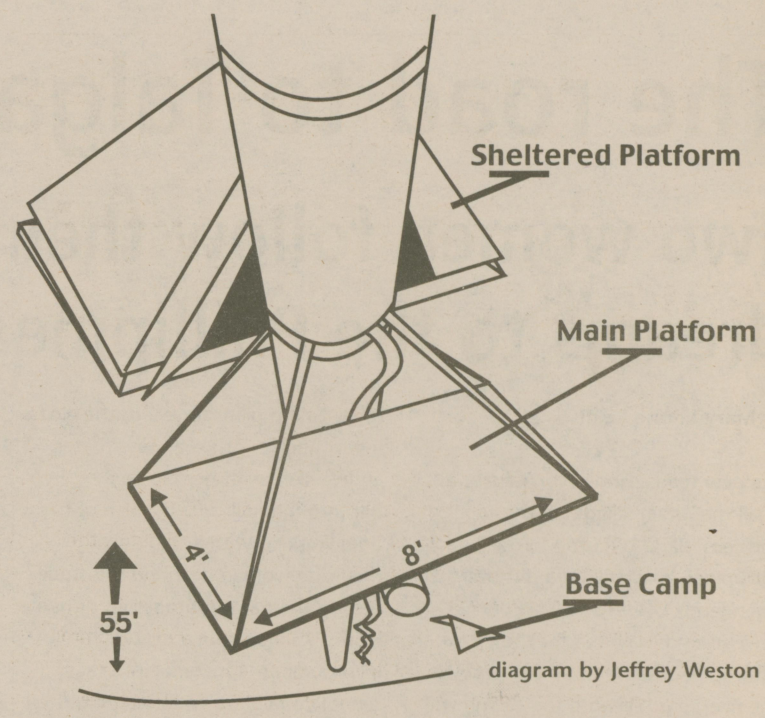


Diagram of current tree-sit base in Cunningham woods

Vertigo re-opens for benefit show

by Robin Platts

This Saturday, March 29, UVic's defunct nightclub Vertigo opens its doors for its first concert in a year-and-a-half. Local bands Johnny Action Figure, Limestone and the Armchair Cynics will rock the SUB club for a benefit gig put on by the Helping Hands club.

Helping Hands achieved club status in January. The group's goal is to raise $30,000 over the next few years to build and sustain a school in Kenya.

"It's just doing our share," said Helping Hands President Lindsay Roberts. "Education is one of the best ways to break the cycle of poverty." Anderson hopes the show will raise more than $1,000.

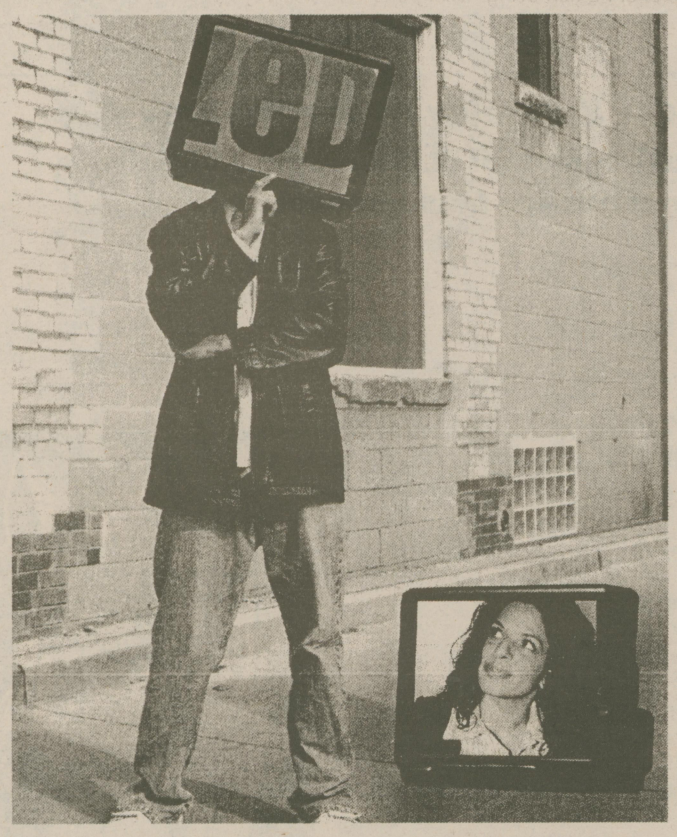
Aside from bringing Vertigo back to life for a night, Saturday's show is the first gig that a UVic club or course union has been allowed to put on in Vertigo, which closed in late 2001 following the UVic Students' Society's financial debacle.

"If it's a success, there's the possibility of student-run clubs being able to make money out of Vertigo," Roberts said. "It's a guinea pig project."

Part of the reason Helping Hands was able to stage the show is that all three bands are playing for free.

"They're doing it for the cause," said Roberts. "They've been awesome."

Vertigo's doors open 9 p.m. Saturday for the gig. Tickets are $7 in advance (available at the UVSS info booth or Lyle's Place) and $9 at the door. For more info, visit *members.shaw.ca/helpinghandsgroup*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Soapbox

Public relations firms spin war

by Sally Jade Powis

Every war needs a ground-breaking event to pull at the heart-strings of the nation in order for the government to get support for their cause.

At the onset of the Gulf War, the story of a 15-year-old Kuwaiti girl by the name of Nayirah was told to the world.

With a face full of tears, Nayirah told a United States congressional committee about the atrocities that she saw Saddam Hussein's soldiers commit during the first few weeks of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

"I volunteered at the al-Addan hospital," said Nayirah. "While I was there, I saw Iraqi soldiers come into the hospital with guns, and go into the room where babies were in incubators. They took the incubators and left the babies on the cold floor to die."

Her written testimony was handed-out in a media kit prepared by Citizens for a Free Kuwait. To ensure the safety of her family back in occupied Kuwait, she was only referred to by her first name in the media. The heart-wrenching testimony captivated people around the globe.

The testimony electrified opposition towards Saddam Hussein. President George Bush mentioned Nayirah's testimony a number of times while the American troops were in Iraq during the Gulf War.

In a public address that Bush delivered to the American people, he mentioned "babies pulled from incubators and scattered like firewood across the floor."

Unfortunately, the truth was that Nayirah had not been in Kuwait at the time. She was, in fact, the daughter of the Kuwaiti ambassador in Washington, D.C.

The event that she claimed to have witnessed while under oath turned out to be fabricated entirely by Hill and Knowlton, a public relations firm. At a meagre cost of $1 million a month, the Kuwaiti government hired the firm in an attempt to portray a more favourable image of itself to the world while building-up opposition against Iraq.

Hill and Knowlton produced dozens of video news releases containing Nayirah's testimony, which featured carefully planned performances designed to look like spontaneous news coverage.

These news releases were then given free-of-cost to major media outlets, specifically American news agencies. They were presented to the public as if they were "real" news, with some networks going so far as to place their logo at the bottom of the screen.

If history can teach us anything, it is that we must keep a critical eye when viewing the media; we must not simply absorb all of the information that is presented to us, especially during times of war.

Former political prisoner liberates with speech

by Sally Jade Powis

"The present theatre of war will not be far from our minds," said John Wood from the UVic Humanities Centre in the introductory speech for a symposium on preventing crimes against humanity this past Thursday, which began after a brief delay due to a peace vigil being held on campus.

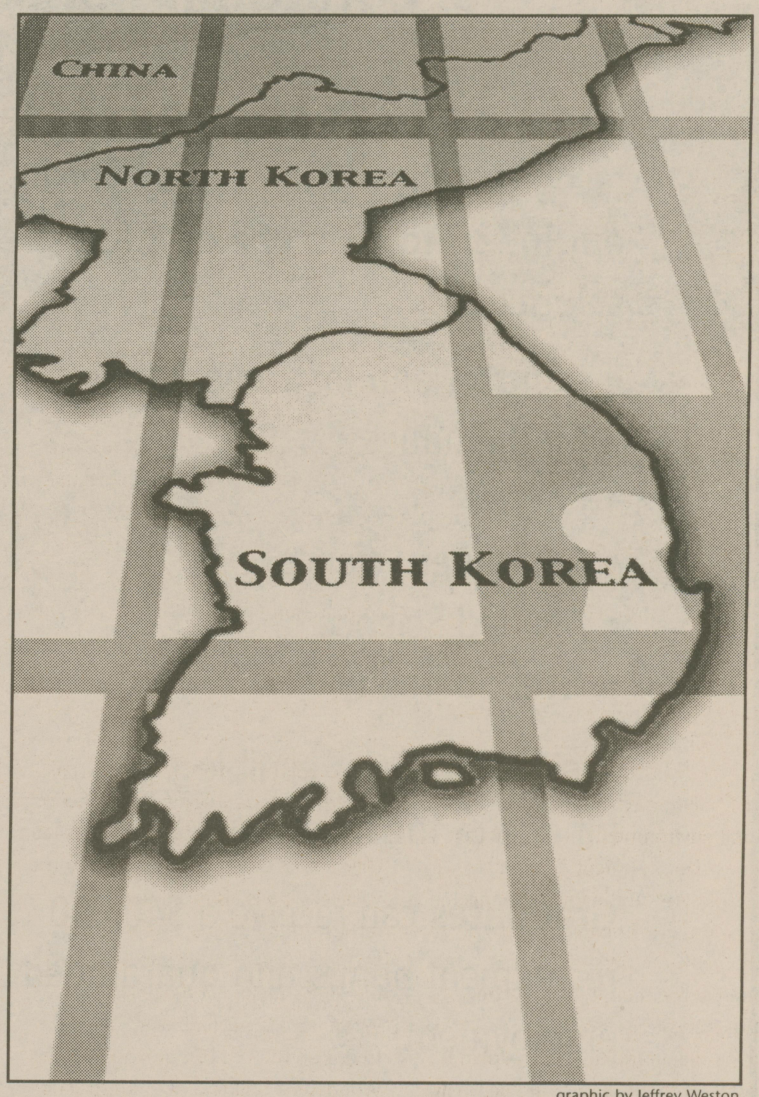
Among the presenters at the symposium was one of Asia's foremost campaigners for peace, Suh Sung, who is one of Korea's best-known and longest-serving political prisoners.

"War can kill many people and denies every human right," said Sung. "The struggle against war is top priority."

Sung was imprisoned for 19 years under a repressive South Korean regime that was supported by the U.S. After being arrested and falsely charged as part of a campus spy ring in 1971, Amnesty International identified him as a prisoner of conscience. In 1990, following the rise of the democracy movement in Korea, Sung was released.

Few people placed in situations comparable to Sung's have lived to tell of their ordeal. In his autobiography, *Unbroken Spirits: Nineteen Years in South Korea's Gulag*, Sung details his life up until his release.

Sung was the 1995 recipient of the Tada Yoko Human Rights Award and is presently the co-convener of the International Symposium on Human Rights and Peace in East Asia. He is also a professor of comparative international law at Ritmeikan University in Kyoto, Japan.



graphic by Jeffrey Weston

"World history is replete with examples of human beings killing one another and of brutal oppression," said Sung to the silent audience. During his speech, Sung discussed how the lessons learned from the Asia Pacific War from 1931-1945 can be applied to present-day human rights issues.

The symposium, sponsored in-part by the UVic Humanities Centre, was in celebration of the 40th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

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Soapbox

Sellouts and hypocrites? Raging against advertising prudes

by John Thompson

Two weeks ago, *the Martlet* ran one of the most controversal issues we've put together in the last few years.

What was the source of controversy?

A scathing condemnation of America's war on Iraq?

An expose on how UVic's administration makes big bucks while hiking tuition fees, or on how the UVSS talks tough about student rights, except when negotiating with its unionized student workers?

No.

In fact, the outrage wasn't even created by an article. It was from a car ad, which featured the Photoshopped image of a BC transit bus. In place of its route number and destination, a graphics artist hired by General Motors had added the caption, "2 hours of hell." The following week, a similar ad ran, with the caption "11 Bacterial Stew."

The backlash was palpable.

Angry students crammed into our Semi-Annual General Meeting to protest the ads.

Some even threatened to boycott *the Martlet* by demanding we return the portion of their their student fees ($3.75 per semester) that helps produce this paper every week.

The Armed Forces ad that also ran in the paper didn't help, of course. War had just broken out, and everyone on campus was feeling the effect. And check it out: We have another one this week, opposite this article.

So, how does advertising influence content?

Does the fact that a Canadian Forces ad runs opposite this opinion piece shape what I write? Most of the students who attended our meeting were politely deferential about the content of our stories, but according to some campus protesters, the answer is probably yes.

They'd cite media critics like Noam Chomsky, who describe how the job of newspapers isn't selling information to an audience, but instead selling an audience to corporate advertisers.

Of course, the flak we've taken has been far less rigorous and thorough than Chomsky. To a degree, we're thankful: We simply don't have space to run a 50-page letter to the editor.

However, you'd think university students would offer a more sophisticated critique of how corporations influence people. Or, at the very least, you'd expect them to give readers the credit that most are intelligent, reasonable people capable of making up their own minds.

Apparently not. What's suggested by campus critics is that readers don't know the difference between advertising and content, which is sometimes true. More seriously, they suggest readers can't think for themselves. I think this view is condescending and suggests some ugly things about the critics.

To begin with, it suggests they, and they alone, understand how the world should be. In my opinion, anyone with this degree of certainty deserves an immediate dose of skepticism and distrust.

It also suggests that if we create a pristine, pure enough bubble to crawl inside, co-habitated with other like-minded, progressive university students, everything will be fine. Just leave the others at the door, and hope the corporate barbarians won't smash through the gates.

But of course they can, and they will. Turning your back to the world doesn't help change it.

Advertising prudes do have one thing right: we're dirty here at *the Martlet*. What they've overlooked is that everyone else is dirty too. No one's completely removed from complicated systems of oppression that shape the world we inhabit. People really interested in creating social change will spend more time exchanging ideas with people outside the university, rather than hermetically sealing themselves inside the Ring Road and preaching to the choir.

This year, *the Martlet* made some tough choices and decided drop our advertising boycott on cigarette ads. There were a couple of reasons, including the fact that our hardware was falling to pieces and money was sorely needed for upgrades.

We reasoned that by producing a better newspaper, we would reach a wider audience. We also reasoned that our audience is smart enough to know cigarettes are bad for them.

Besides, what's the purpose of an advertising boycott? Usually, to exercise pressure against a company to force it to adopt more ethical policies. Student papers across Canada boycotted tobacco companies years ago, and *the Martlet* was at the forefront of this movement. Still, few papers maintain this boycott today, and its usefulness may be over. At present, the federal government plans to ban tobacco advertising by sometime next fall.

Outrage at the Canadian Forces ad seems equally misplaced, since at present our government isn't militarily supporting America's war. Even if Canada's military is being opposed on principle, does this really compromise our stance of a student newspaper?

Advertising has always been a part of newspapers since the rise of the popular press in the 19th century, and printing costs have always made this business an expensive venture. Today more than ever, advertising is a necessary evil, even for a paper subsidized by student fees.

But let's return to the question: does advertising influence content? Sometimes. In an ideal world, advertising and content are kept independent. But if a small newspaper in rural B.C. runs a critical expose on a major advertiser, they risk going bankrupt.

Standing up for ideals is always heroic, but what if you're an editor with a family and children, employing reporters in a similar situation? That's not an easy choice.

We're lucky at *the Martlet*, as the most independent newspaper in Victoria. The *Times Colonist* is part of the CanWest Global media empire owned by the Asper family. *Monday Magazine* and other Newsgroup publications are owned by the regional media baron David Black. At both chains, questions have been raised over the past few years about editorial independence. Most reporters maintain they're free to write what they're like, but plenty of disaffected employees maintain this sort of corporate concentration isn't a good thing.

That's the subject I began writing about when I first volunteered for *the Martlet*, three years ago. Since then, I've waded through tear-gas at massive demonstrations for similar reasons, spent a summer working in backwater towns for the community press, and emerged with more complicated ideas of how the world works.

The Martlet has changed too. A few years ago the paper was far more activist; today it's far more irreverent. Next year, when I take the helm as our incoming Editor-in-Chief, I expect we'll move in new directions.

And that's a good thing, since while the desire of progressives on campus to preserve and shelter what we have at UVic is understandable, it's also, well, downright conservative. At times, it can also be pretty close-minded.

The world isn't static and unchanging. Neither should we be.

Student Voice

Perspectives on war—up close and personal

by Marty Waldman

Before I was born, one of my uncles died in a Lancaster Bomber over Europe in the Second World War.

Five years later, another uncle fought in the '47 war to secure Palestine for the Jews.

In 1956, the year I was born, the Russians invaded and conquered Czechoslovakia.

As a young boy, I was swamped by TV shows about combat, such as *Combat* and *Hogan's Heroes*, as my father railed at us for watching the jolly Germans.

In the '60s, I was hypnotised by the cornucopia of war toys put on the market by Mattel. It never occurred to me that while I was drooling over a Johnny Seven One Man Army multi-gun that shot grenades, bullets and roll caps, its deadly counterpart was being supplied to the U.S. army and its allies in Viet Nam. My G.I. Joe was just this guy with all these neat guns, you know.

In the early '70s, my *National Geographic* magazines had pages of advertisements extolling the education, discipline, and career benefits of military academies.

Meanwhile, I watched as growing peace demonstrations, an increasingly large number of young men being sent home dead or missing their limbs, organs and sanity, and an unmuzzleable presscorps' repetition of the horrors of the My Lai massacre and the Viet Cong Tet Offensive ground the American War (as the North Vietnamese called it) to a surrender. But not before I saw naked napalm-burned children running screaming for their lives and helpless prisoners having their brains blown out for the camera.

That decade, I joined a Zionist youth group helping to smuggle bibles into Russia, and to barter with the Soviet Government for the release of brutalized and persecuted Jews. I also fantasized about moving to Israel to join the army and protect my fellow Jews against the Arabs. I was a teenager.

We do these things.

> Even after war games, psychological abuse, and implicit anti-Semitism, it still took a live fire attack exercise to finally scare that shit out and some sense back into me.

And then I joined the Canadian Armed Forces, while I was going to theatre school and hanging around with draft dodgers. It's a long weird story. I learned to do a lot of that stuff you see in the movies.

Even after war games, psychological abuse, and implicit anti-Semitism, it still took a live fire attack exercise to finally scare that shit out and some sense back into me. That, and the sergeant-major demanding that I cut my hair even shorter than it already was. Remember, these were the late '70s. Guys still knew how to enjoy having hair, unlike now.

In the '80s, I marched with hundreds of thousands across the Burrard Street Bridge in Vancouver in massive peace marches that, sadly, no longer seem relevant. I sang lots of anti-war songs. People nodded, and sang along.

In the '90s, I marched with almost dozens down Whitehorse streets in the rain, because it was necessary, even if it was hopeless. I sang anti-war songs in coffee-houses on Remembrance Day, while others sang songs about huskies and getting laid. This time, nobody sang along.

In this century, I watch some of my people bulldozing homes and shooting children, terrorising and torturing helpless men and women.

At the same time, I watch other Jews standing in front of those bulldozers, helping their Semitic brothers and sisters rebuild those homes, and facing down right-wing zealots pointing Uzi's, with no more than a song and a peace sign to defend themselves.

It's enough already.

We are them, and they are us.

You may not want to accept it, but all of us here are responsible for what we do in the world. We have fuelled a capitalistic war being waged against Global Have-Nots since Eurocentric imperialism of the 19th and 20th Century became a Western way of life.

Western economies bloat even larger with every galleon of gas pumped into our Harleys, Benzes and SUVs. You dig a plastic wrapped, convenience-oriented, computerised and effortless vida loca?

Guess what? The tab is due, in full, now.

The Second World War cost 50 million dead: 25 million Russians, 6 million Jews and tens of millions of other unarmed defenseless noncombatants.

The United States is now preparing to drop airburst bombs which will eradicate humans off the earth's face as easily as a would a nuclear blast. There are mothers and fathers working in factories in the U.S. to build those bombs to destroy someone else's mothers and fathers, and children. If anyone can come up with a better notion of obscenity, than go ahead; it's your quarter.

Why do I think that what I've written makes a rat's ass worth of difference?

Some of you might pick out a harmony in the song. Well, make it your own. Don't stop believing that we don't have to die in the Third Word War.

Don't stop marching.

Vote, for Christ's sake. Imagine 50 people a day I said 50 people a day, walking into buildings all over... no, wait a second... Alice's Restaurant flashback. Sorry.

But imagine, every student across the country voting in blocs?

There would be a mass crappage of drawers not seen since Caesar saw the barbarians on the other side of the gate, and said "Okay Guys, let's get 'em. Uh, Guys? Where are you all going?"

Maybe someday there'll be a place for the hawks of the world to go and play with their Johnny Seven OMA's, and when they see how much pain THEY have to endure, the survivors might just step back and join the rest of us in giving peace a chance.

Over to you, Johnny...

Editorial

Shock and awe

Since the United States' inevitable war against Iraq began, the UVic community has responded in different ways. Some came out in the rain to protest, some erected tents—a peace camp. Most just seemed to go about their business—classes, papers, coffee and so on.

So... so what? Should we be doing anything in reaction to the horrific events unfolding thousands of miles away? *Can* we do anything that means anything in the grand scheme of things? Are the peace camps just designed to make the peace campers feel better? Do they have any effect on the situation in Iraq? Does it matter if they do or not?

Ultimately, it is important to react—whether it "achieves" anything or not. To just ignore the situation is to take the side of the man Michael Moore called a "fictitious president." Moore took some flack for mouthing off in his Oscar speech, but would it have been more productive for Moore to just get up and thank his mom, the Academy, God, etc.? Of course not.

So do something.

React in your own way. Don't worry what anyone else says about how you choose to respond. Whether you take to the streets with a placard, put up a tent, or write a letter to *the Martlet*. (Oh, by the way, a mean-spirited anonymous note slid under our office door does nothing for anyone's cause [*see page 11*]. At least have the guts to sign your nasty notes.)

Maybe the peace camps and the marches and protests won't make a bit of difference in the long run. But if you oppose Bush's war—or anything else—do something about it. Big or small, loud or quiet. Don't believe what the media says (us included) without looking at all the angles and sources. Make up your own mind, and act accordingly.

That being said, there are many atrocities that have occurred before the current one snatched all the headlines and satellite feeds, and many more that will occur after. Most you never hear about. There's China's atrocious human rights violations and their oppression of the Tibetan people. Robert Mugabe's South African tyranny. Western Canadian farmers getting jailed for trying to sell their grain at the best prices.

"Fucking *wheat*? I wouldn't even name my band that," you're probably saying. Sure, not every global cause concerns death. But all of them deserve support. Nothing cheapens activism like a Fairweather Johnson, or ends the career of someone like Hootie and his Blowfish. Be realistic.

There will always be something to protest. Looking to invest? Forget precious metals, take placards. They're better than diamonds. But don't get carried away—protests are a beginning, not an end. The most important thing to do is live your own life the best you can. Treat your planet, your neighbours and yourself with respect. Practise peace.

Sounds like hippie bullshit, right? Maybe. But maybe the hippies are on to something. "Imagine all the people, living life in peace?" Think about what that really means. If it bothers you for some reason, gets under your skin, maybe it's time you asked yourself why.

Despite the dehumanized, Hollywood-movie-trailer feel of most war coverage, the stakes now are as high as they've ever been. The theatre of war is open for business. The Bush Players tested the show in Boston and now it's playing to packed houses on Broadway.

Do we sound a little dazed and confused? Despondent? Conflicted?

Let's just say we're awed and more than a little shocked.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings (each Friday at 11:30 am, in SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

Don't like what you read?

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Stop the war on Iraq

SO WHO'S RIGHT?

Student Voice

Response from an indepedent candidate

by Brett Smith

As an independent candidate, and quoted individual in Geordie Clarke's opinion piece in the March 13 *Martlet*, I believe I am both qualified and duty-bound to respond to Clarke's contention that "any person who knows the electoral policy [or] has studied electoral systems will know [that the system is not biased]" is unfounded and simplistic.

Simply stating a policy is not intentionally biased—i.e. it looks good on paper—does not mean that biases do not exist. Additionally, someone who disagrees with the fairness of an electoral system is not automatically ignorant of its nature or electoral systems in general. While the UVSS policy may be bias-free, the same cannot be necessarily said for the actual electoral system we use. Something as innocent as ballot box placements, including days, times, and locations, could very well affect the results of an election, and therefore the system can be biased. The system is not simply the generalised idea under which we hold elections, but also the manner in which the elections are undertaken. Lisa Karoway was simply stating her belief that the biases that do exist, perhaps unintentionally, favour the Putting Students First (PSF) slate.

Clarke's second point related to statements I myself made regarding current Director of Finance Jonas Gifford's actions during the recent election. Clarke believed I was stating collusion existed between Gifford and the PSF slate, and that I was passing moral judgement on what Clarke believes is a non-issue.

I agree this is a non-issue, not because of the fact Gifford is "occupying a political office" and allowed to campaign on behalf of his successor (none of the board positions are in fact "political" as the Board is quick to [officially] point out), but because of the ethically sound actions Gifford did engage in. As the Chief Electoral Office noted, the campaigning was not done "during work hours" and therefore is acceptable.

My statement was that Gifford's actions "bear ethical scrutiny"—that is to say they can be scrutinised from an ethical standpoint and be found acceptable, not that his actions warrant scrutiny because of the possibility of abuse of his position. Do note I stated I respected him for the actions he took—that would be hard to do if I found them unethical.

However, because any action on the part of someone on the Board, who is not running for re-election, "creates and maintains a perception of collusion," such actions are "something that should be avoided in the future." Board members should, in my opinion, be free of both actual and perceived ethical lapses, to maintain the trust of the members of the UVSS at large.

Low voter turnout is not simply "the nature of the electorate" or the "current political climate" as Clarke alleges, but rather a telling sign of the lack of confidence the students have in their Executive.

Is that warranted? Perhaps a little due to lack of communication and seeming irrelevance of the Executive (people do leave the university within about four or five years of getting here).

The Board needs to sell themselves to the members at large—not simply at elections, but throughout the year, to create and maintain an impression of relevance and a reality of importance. That is the real issue here, not who does or doesn't make the best pitch for two weeks out of 52, but who will be able to sell themselves, and the Board, throughout the year.

Student Voice

Take sides, advises mayor of Fernwood

by Ben Isitt

It is comfortable to pretend we are a big, happy family.

Father knows best.

Current circumstances make such a stance impossible. Our country is sending battleships and troops to escalate the war against Iraq. The BC Liberals are leveling our social infrastructure to nineteenth-century conditions, pushing poor and disabled toward suicide. Striking workers at UBC are being run down on their picket lines. Those who deny the necessity for social transformation are either insulated by deadly wealth or too tired or timid to raise their voice.

On our tiny, delusional corner of the earth, UVic administrators insist on leveling a stand of mature Douglas Fir forest that stands in the way of their landscaped dystopia.

Wake the fuck up.

I mean that in all sincerity. UVic students and workers have the privilege and the duty to lead the charge against war, racism, and privatization. Yet they are confronted with the backward vision of the dinosaurs who run this campus.

Gordon Campbell "returned autonomy" to this university, and administration wasted no time in doubling tuition fees. The assault on low-income students is paralleled by the destructive trajectory of campus "planning," with the Cunningham clearcut of Dec. 27 awkwardly anticipating an ugly sibling.

A climate of fear—dare I say terror—grips this campus and our world. Those who refuse to conform are bombed, beaten, bulldozed or blindly legislated into submission.

Over 1,400 students, staff and area residents signed a petition calling for no further deforestation on this campus. Somehow, the Campus Development Committee accepted the lies of a so-called "environmental impact assessment," which concluded—surprise, surprise—that a Douglas Fir forest was similar in ecological value to a vacant lawn.

Over 300 faculty signed a letter demanding an overhaul of the campus planning process, yet somehow building-by-building development continues to decimate our campus, vanishing natural spaces. These "Living Classrooms"—or "Special Ecosystem Research areas"—are no match for university "leaders" who rush blindly toward conformity.

God forbid a university should depart from meaningless "input" and embrace genuine participation!

God forbid UVic should build its next building on a vacant lawn that has sat vacant since 1961 while dozens of acres of adjacent forest have been built over!

God forbid university professors, deans, and scholars should uphold their right to think and act critically!

This is my final semester at UVic. No doubt, many will welcome this news. But to all those who refuse to stick their heads out of the bunker: mushy-middle liberalism has led us directly to war, poverty, and ecological collapse.

The middle ground has disappeared.

Refusing to take sides unfortunately means you are siding with the powerful who control all our resources and make all our decisions. Step out of line, and you get bombed.

The only hope for a future that is no longer divided into two opposing sides is to take the courageous step of siding against the status quo.

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Space. It's like... oh, wait. I already did that one.
Whatever.
You know where we are.

Letters

Call me irresponsible
I can't believe you would even consider running the full page, anti-public transit ad in *the Martlet*. It's irresponsible.

Phil Smith

SAW: The debate continues
I am not a member of Students Against War, but Ridgway's letter from March 20 appears formulated for the sole purpose of rhetorical barrage, to give the term propaganda a rest.

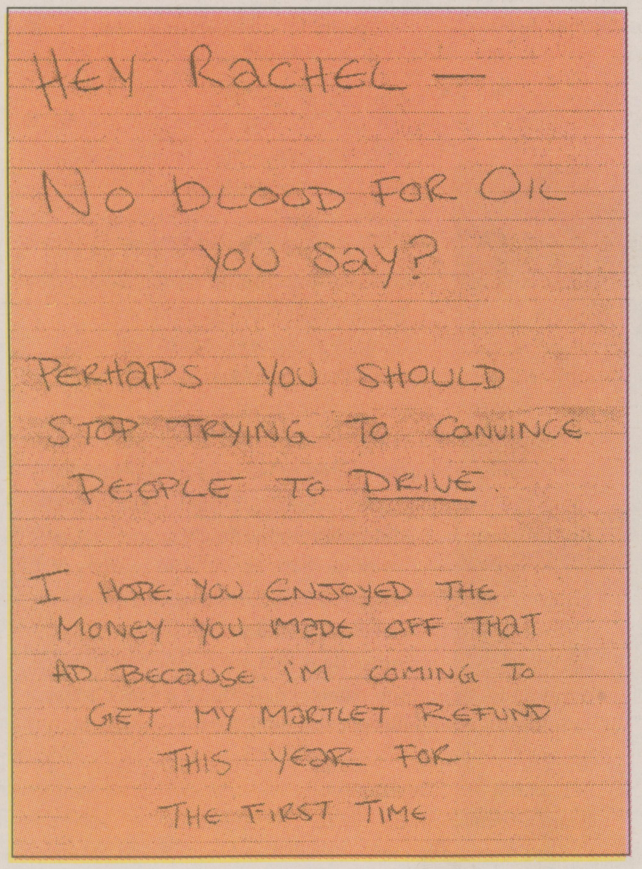
No, SAW cannot presume to go on local news saying they represent the views of the university. However, the fact is, they were able to make that statement. Any person who would believe such an obviously unofficial claim belongs in the category of people who are dangerously complacent in their acceptance of information, and who believe without question anything they are told. In fact, SAW's request for Turpin to take the anti-war stance on the school's behalf was turned down on the basis that such a view would impinge on an open learning environment, as the March 13 issue reported.

What was wrong with SAW asking for Turpin's support? For a mere request to cause such a strong reaction in a *Martlet* reader invites questions. If your opposition to an organization's methods is so great, why not help SAW with the execution of its goals? You are apparently capable of writing letters, so why not send SAW suggestions of change rather than attacking them publicly where they are unable to offer response?

SAW is to be lauded for its proactive stance on an illegal war that will impact all earthly beings. Ridgway's letter is devoid of any discussion of democracy as it exists, in the U.S., where an appointed (not elected) president can supersede congress and declare war without hard evidence, and based purely on impatience and fear. How's that for democratic process, especially considering polls show most Americans are against war? How is the U.S.'s placement of a government in post-war Iraq going to be anything resembling ideal democracy, considering the needs of the country's three quarreling ethnic groups, and the U.S.'s interest in their oil? Until SAW is shown to cause more than "horrid insult" to Ridgway's "democratic" sensibilities, perhaps it would be fitting to point the wrath of her pen to more deserving targets. Other than the political, environmental, and economic damages of war, not to mention countless casualties, what sort of factual evidence does an anti-war student club need to justify its cause? I fail to see how this can be "protesting for the sake of protesting." Perhaps an invitation to Ms. Ridgway to write her own editorial for *the Martlet* would appease her; however, this would unfortunately overlook her blatantly bigoted view against the publication.

Sylvia Law

Progressive activism



The Martlet's ad director responds:
"Dear (I'm sorry—I missed your name),
My name is spelled R.A.C.H.E.L.L.E."

Thieves in the temple
I recently went to SUBText to collect money from my consigned books. If they weren't sold, I planned to re-consign them. However, my Business Administration book, which I was selling for $70, was nowhere to be found on their shelves. It was "missing."

I bought this book brand new for $120 at the Bookstore and used it for a grand total of three months. I decided to consign it at SUBText, hoping to get a better price for it there.

Missing? I don't think so. Someone stole it. SUBText is not responsible for "missing" items. I asked SUBText if books go "missing" very often. Yes. I was shown a stack of papers two-inches thick documenting all the books that went "missing" for the last consignment period. That is a lot of stolen books, a lot of stolen money, and that is ridiculous.

What's even more ridiculous is that SUBText isn't taking action to protect their customers, and I want to know why they aren't implementing security measures. Students are the ones making their business happen, and I can tell you they won't be getting any business from me.

Angeline Haynes

For skin
I am in total agreement with the writer of the article "The Case Against The Cut" (March 20).

I also think that automatic infant circumcision is a cruel and unnecessary practice. The reason I say that it is unnecessary is because not only does it make no difference to cleanness, the other arguments for it have to do with prevention of medical conditions. That's right! Some people still have the damn fool idea that circumcising their little baby, will stop him from getting cancer of the penis. This has been proven false.

Other "research" suggests that circumcision gets rid of the risk of S.T.D.s, which has never been proven and even if it was, have these people never heard of condoms? In fact the ONLY thing circumcision has EVER been proven to help is if the foreskin is too tight. But this is a very rare condition, which only develops as early as the early teens, when the boy is at least able to talk. Other than that, the only thing circumcision has been proven to do, is reduce sexual pleasure and make masturbation almost impossible.

Trey McNeil

View from the tree-sit
I am concerned about the CDC's decision to build the new engineering building on site "C" which is the current engineering building parking lot.

This will be one of the largest buildings at UVic with 80,000 square feet of floor space. Site "C" is one of the smallest building sites at UVic and unfortunately there will need to be some more trees removed from Cunningham Woods. The trees which will be removed are protecting the rest of the forest from blowing down. I also question the creativity of the architect who cannot design a building to fit the site. I understand that the problem is an access road which would service the new Island Medical and Cunningham buildings. If this is the case, surely the architect can design the building around this obstacle and not further harm the integrity of the already damaged Cunningham Woods. If this is impossible, a new site should be selected. Contrary to what UVic's spin doctors are saying, there are MANY alternatives to this problem.

Sheldon Etheridge.
A tree sitter.

Save Russian Studies
As a fourth year Russian Studies major at UVic, I am writing to express my concern for the future of my field of study at this university.

An upcoming Departmental Review has raised the question of whether it is financially viable to offer the current Russian Studies programme. The university states that our levels of enrollment do not meet their criteria. Although upper level language courses are often small, courses of general interest, such as Russian history and Russian Cinema have high enrollments and students are subject to waitlists. At present, cuts are being considered specifically to the third and fourth year language program, which would then result in a loss of the Russian Major programme altogether. This would also increase the possibility of further cuts to Russian courses. Furthermore, due to faculty retirements we will need to hire at least one, most likely two tenure professors in order to keep our program at a functioning level.

I would like to state, most adamantly, that the loss of the Russian Majors programme would be a great loss to the scope of liberal education offered at UVic. The trend of funding technological education at the expense of the Humanities should be examined very carefully at a time when international communication and understanding is greatly needed.

Any student who wishes is welcome to sign a copy of the Russian Studies Course Union's petition against cuts to Russian Studies, posted until Friday March 28 on the door of Clearihue C149.

Lara Brown

Give war a chance
I'm going to start by making some excuses. I'm not a *Martlet* writer. I'm barely a *Martlet* reader. By that, I mean that I read *the Martlet* every week, but usually conclude by shaking my head in bewilderment. I'm also not very political. I'm taking a Poli Sci class right now, but am absolutely godawful at it. I'm the last person who should be writing this.

I've read a lot of anti-war material in the last few months. A lot of it makes some valid points, including the fact that war results in death, that war sucks, that Bush probably has an ulterior motive other than wanting to liberate the Iraqi people, that sanctions suck, and that wouldn't it be nice if we could all just get along. None of this I disagree with. There are, however, some other points I think need to be brought to light.

Even without war, even without sanctions, the Iraqi people still die needlessly. Saddam's dictatorship involves (at last count by Amnesty International) over 30 methods of torture, oppression of minorities, and the death of innocents. You say that Bush is doing this for oil or money. That's fine by me. I don't care if he's doing this for those reasons or because he's sexually frustrated or if it's because aliens have implanted a chip in his brain. Bush is doing the right thing for the wrong reasons, and the bottom line is that, if he wins, then life will get better for the Iraqis.

I've been told that we should be investing the $100 billion dollars this war will cost into aid and relief, but that's just a band-aid solution. The real problem is the Iraqi government. Even if the U.S. installs a puppet government, the situation cannot get any worse than it was under Saddam. Best-case scenario is that the Iraqis get to establish their own government that will allow them to pursue life, liberty and happiness (or freedom, equality and fraternity—whatever you dig) with reckless abandon.

Human rights abuses constantly occur all over the world, and generally our governments are too poor or too tangled in the delicate web of diplomacy or too indifferent to do much about it. This time around, there's a strong possibility that we can excise a cruel dictator and offer a nation a chance at a better quality of life, and everyone's protesting. Innocent people are going to die, babies and children and women and puppies and kittens are going to die, but they were dying anyhow, and this time around these deaths will be the price paid for a revolution and in hopes of a change for the better, rather than the price paid for apathy and inaction.

We may all agree that bombs are dumb, but what we can't agree on is what to do instead. It'd be nice if we could rise above war, but a millennia of civilization still hasn't offered any new solutions, and the situation here is dire and should not be left alone any longer.

I wrote this because I'm tired of all the anti-war groups who claim that they're representing the opinions of the world, and are thus grossly misrepresenting me. I'm tired of the people who can't see what needs to be done beyond their hatred of Bush, and whose opinions consist of the catchy slogans painted on their placards.

War is evil, but permitting a tyrant to dominate his people in so cruel a manner is worse.

Jessica Heath

COME COME, WE'RE HERE TO

by Hilton Ward

"Chess is a sea which a gnat may drink and an elephant may bathe"
– Chess Proverb (India)

The game of chess has perplexed and delighted the human race for over 1,500 years. The exact origin of chess is unclear, although the game has been traced to ancient India, China and the Middle East.

One of the ways chess made it into Europe was via the Moorish conquest of the Iberian Peninsula (Spain) in 711 AD. The Moors had almost 800 years in which to institute chess as a bona fide novelty at court, which they did. The Spanish word for chess, "ajedrez," still bears its Arabic roots. (Spanish words that start with "Aj" are derived from Arabic words.)

Spain produced the first chess writer, a priest named Ruy Lopez. In 1560, Lopez wrote the first book on chess, *Libro de la Invencion Liberal y Arte del Juego del Axedrez* (*The Book of the Liberal Invention of the Game of Chess*). In this book, Lopez outlined his idea for attacking with the white pieces. The Ruy Lopez attack is today one of the most feared systems in chess.

Chess gathered strength from the 1600s onwards, as it came to resemble the game we know today. Actual world championships were not instituted until the early 1900s. Prior to that time, chess was a pastime whose professionals relied upon the patronage of wealthy enthusiasts to provide remuneration.

Chess has been described as a triangle, with sport, art and science at its apexes. Chess has also been called "the gymnasium of the mind" because, while it lacks the physical component to claim the title of sport uncontested, it is indeed a workout for the mind and body.

No one who has delved into the depths of the game would argue against the idea that chess combines sport, art and science. Anyone who has played in a grueling weekend tournament, in which five games can last four to five hours each, can attest to the physical stamina required to compete at one's best under such circumstances. (Top chess players in the postmodern era generally maintain extreme physical fitness.) Chess players who have undergone such baptisms will also no doubt have witnessed things on the chess boards that will attest to chess' station as art and science.

The game of chess itself is based on the contrast between light and dark; the absolutes of Black and White. As such it is easily transferable as a metaphor and has been so treated in much literature. There are the well-known examples of chess in literature such as *Alice in Wonderland* and the recent inclusion of a chess game in the first *Harry Potter* movie. The problem with such inclusions is that knowledge of the game is required to make sense of the allusions that chess brings to literature. This knowledge is often lacking because while just about everybody knows about the game, not so many are acquainted with its intricacies. In fact,the current highest-rated player in the world, Gary Kasparov, maintains that there are fewer than 10 players in the world who truly understand chess.

Chess is divided into three sections or stages: the opening, the middlegame, and the endgame. The opening is where players set up the foundation of their subsequent play.

The middlegame is perhaps the most dynamic and exciting stage. This is where the majority of sparkling combinations are seen. (A combination is a series of moves that results in a spectacular gain of either position or material for the player initiating the combination.) A combination usually involves a sacrifice—this is where a player gives away a valuable piece in return for marked advantage. Combinations are the most exciting play in chess. They are quite rare in top level chess.

"You probably lose nine games out of 10 at the top level playing aggressively these days, but that one win makes up for all the losses," said Jack Yoos, Western Canada's highest-rated player.

The endgame is the stage in which pure calculation usually carries the day. The endgame is initiated when most of the pieces have come off the board and a shift takes place. The King—heretofore the weakest piece on the board due to its vulnerability—becomes a powerful offensive and defensive weapon. The object of the endgame is usually to promote a pawn (when a pawn reaches the other end of the board it can be promoted to any other piece, usually a queen).

"One bad move can ruin 40 good ones." – Chess proverb.

The low-down on the hoe-down is this: chess is for blood. Nobody really says it out loud, but chess is for blood. Chess is down and dirty. One plays to win.

Chess can be thought of as a slow-motion NFL or CFL play. The pawns are like the defensive and offensive lines. The two lines come together and the players attempt to penetrate. There is no ball but the overall goal is the same. Each side, while trying to stop the other team from doing so, attempts to penetrate the other's defence. When the centre snaps the ball to the quarterback, the offensive and defensive lines slam together. Three-hundred pound athletes use all of their power to pry an opening for their running back. Once a gap has been established the idea is then to exploit the opening and secure an advantage. Each side tries to create a gap in the opposition line.

In chess, the pawns come together in similar fashion to form a line of scrimmage. In chess, there is no noise and the action takes place on a relatively small square board. In an NFL football game, the noise is deafening and the action takes place on a relatively large rectangular field. Two pawns meeting in the middle of the chess board just sit there. The wrestling is all mental and it is done by the people pushing the pawns.

The goals are different in each game once the defence has been broken, but the recurrent theme is still penetration. The goal in football, after penetrating, is to score touchdowns. But the goal of chess is to checkmate, or "sack," the opponent's king.

Realistically, football and chess are vastly different pastimes, but there are similarities in that the combatants are using all possible means to gain and exploit an advantage. In top-level professional chess, as in top-level professional football, the players are fully committed to winning their respective games. Another, possibly more accurate connection between chess and football would perhaps lie with the coaches of football teams. The coaches send the players out onto the field with instructions that are planned in advance. The difference of course is that chess pieces can't think for themselves, but there are probably many coaches who wish their players would be as obedient as chess pieces.

"Attack! Always attack." – Anderssen (Great player of the 19th century)

Chess is featured in many movies to varying degrees. Denzel Washington's character in *The Bone Collector* plays against a voice activated chess engine. Jude Law and Matt Damon play a game of chess in the bath in *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. (The problem with both of these movies, though, is that the depictions of the chess games are incorrect. Denzel dictates his move and the computer plays a totally different move. In the bath scene the moves shown are in the wrong order. No big deal. It's just fun to pick up the bloopers.)

"This shit's chess, it ain't checkers." – Alonzo (Denzel Washington), Training Day.

The realm of professional chess is a murky underworld—from the claims made by Bobby Fischer regarding KGB plots to unsettle (and later to assassinate) him during world championship matches with Soviet opponents to the assertions made by top Eastern Block players of the latter stages of the twentieth century that the state ruled soviet chess with an iron fist.

Since the frigid days of the cold war, chess has been used as a mantle for supremacy. The old Soviet Union used the success of its top chess players, such as Boris Spassky and Anatoly Karpov, to promote the idea that the Soviet system of education was superior to that of the west and that therefore its citizens were more intelligent, and ergo Communism was better than Capitalism. So when Bobby Fischer burst onto the scene in the 1970s and plucked the title of World Champion from behind the iron curtain, the entire world sat up and took notice.

This event occasioned unprecedented media attention. So adamant were the demands of both camps—Fischer's and the Soviet's—that the match had to be played in Iceland. Boris Spassky, the world champion and hot favourite, was expected to wipe out the American pretender to the throne of chess. Bobby Fischer captured the imagination of the world when he upset the Soviet heavyweight. Unfortunately, Fischer then turned into a wacko. Recent reports have had him playing chess on the Internet under an assumed name; but these were never proved.

An example of the shadiness that surrounds much of the activities of top-level chess bodies can be seen in the match that took place in 1997 between Gary Kasparov and IBM's Deeper Blue. Since the '80s, there have been periodic matches played between humans and computers to determine where true chess genius lies. Does chess supremacy rest with the monster calculations the chess engines are capable of? Or does it reside with the ability to "smell" or "intuit" the right move?

O PLAY CHESS

Chess engines, such as the one on which Deeper Blue relied, are capable of viewing 200 million oppositions per second—and that was 1997. One might well ask how on earth a human can compete with such sheer brutal calculating power.

The controversy surrounding this match-up concerns the fact that there was complete secrecy around IBM's preparation for the Kasparov match-up compared with the openness that encircled the recent match between the current World Champion Vladimir Kramnik and the chess engine Deep Junior. Deep Junior is available for around $100 and can be loaded onto any home computer. Kramnik had a copy of the program with which to spar and prepare in advance of the actual match. In contrast, Kasparov had no opportunity to even view Deeper Blue's previous games while the program's handlers—including top U.S. Grandmaster Joel Benjamin—had access to every game Kasparov has ever played. As a result, there are rumours that Deeper Blue was set up specifically to play Kasparov and that, as such, any of the top 20 chess players in the world could have beaten the machine because it was programmed to play Kasparov and Kasparov alone.

While this is all hearsay, the fact remains that there is just as much controversy and petty infighting in the chess world as in any other. When Kasparov lost the match with Deeper Blue, many of his opponents—and the outspoken former world champ has many—howled with delight.

Controversy surrounds even the manner in which Kasparov lost the match with Deeper Blue. With the series deadlocked up until the final game, Kasparov played a move that shocked the chess world. It was said that an amateur would not have played such a move. There were subsequent rumours that Kasparov threw the match. The fact that Deeper Blue was immediately dismantled—thereby scuttling any chance of a rematch—only adds to the mystery surrounding the whole affair.

Many have heralded the doom of chess now that computers can play so formidably. We should remember, however, that the advent of the motor car has not diminished interest in footraces. The point is that even though we have devices that can move faster than people, we still consider running to be a human endeavour and much effort is put into the running and viewing of footraces. By that same logic, the advent of chess-playing computers that can outplay humans should not diminish the interest in human vs. human, human vs. computer, and computer vs. computer matches. It should be noted that computers still have not comprehensively demonstrated superiority over their human counterparts, but it seems to be simply a matter of time until they do so.

There is a somewhat distasteful trend in modern top-level chess to allow players to consult computers whilst playing in top-level tournaments in order to minimize the occurrence of blunders. Surely the possibility of a blunder—such as dropping the ball with the end zone wide open in football—is part of the attraction of competition. Thankfully this alarming leaning has not yet caught on, and remains insignificant at this point.

The Internet has provided an unexpected yet extremely compatible modern edge to chess. The computer screen is a perfect medium with which to transmit chess information. Scores of Web sites exist to facilitate trans-global competition, both amateur and professional. These sites also provide excellent teaching methods, as well as forums for discussion of all things chess. The recent world championship match between Gary Kasparov and Vladimir Kramnik broke and set all kinds of attendance records. The sites that covered the match were frequently so overburdened by the hordes of users wishing to view the match that they broke down under the weight of such numbers.

The general format of the coverage of the match was to set up a video link to watch the players, with a chessboard set up elsewhere on the screen as well as commentary by expert teams of observers.

The prospect of watching two guys play chess might seem, initially, akin to watching two guys sitting staring at a chessboard for five hours. That is exactly what it is. It is true that several of the games finished in dour draws. However, the games that were either victories or exciting draws were nothing short of riveting.

Many chess equivalents of Super Bowl Parties were set up across the world, as chess enthusiasts set up chessboards in their living rooms and followed the games, moving their chess pieces as the games progressed. In Victoria, the games were broadcast at the horribly early hour of 7 a.m., so the parties here were of the breakfast variety. One game in particular was enthralling: Kramnik snatched a draw from the jaws of victory by forgetting a simple endgame principle:

"The true sweetness of chess, if it can be sweet, is to see a victory snatched, by some happy impertinence, out of the shadow of apparently irrevocable disaster." – H.G. Wells, 1898.

The recent match between Kramnik and Deep Junior was broadcast in the same fashion. An elementary school teacher permitted one of his chess-loving charges to tune in for an entire hour during one of these games. The poor youngster didn't witness a single move. This is the single-most difficult obstacle to chess being embraced as a spectator event in that the general public cannot focus or even conceptualize the concentration required to focus on such an extended contest.

This is why chess and the Internet is the perfect marriage of old-world mystique and modern technology because, while television coverage is prohibitively expensive, Internet coverage is ridiculously cheap.

The one downer in chess is the male dominance of the game. There is only one woman in the world's top 100 and, while she absolutely rocks, one remains a depressingly low number. Judit Polgar is number 13 in the world. She has been in the top 10 but has slipped recently. She has beaten all the top players in the world and refuses to play in the women's sections of the tournaments she enters, demanding her place in the men's sections.

Chess here in Victoria is surprisingly vibrant. Several chess clubs exist at local schools and two adult clubs operate on a weekly basis.

The survival of chess in this city is due to the tireless efforts of one individual and one individual alone. Ironically, given the male dominance of the game, the local hero of the chess scene is a woman. Lynn Stringer has done all there is to do as far as running tournaments and teaching the game. She has run tournaments from here to eternity. She directs local tournaments, as well as larger events, right up to the BC Closed. All anyone has to do to get her to come and teach youngsters the finer points of the game is to tell her where and when and how many there are.

Lynn has presided over Junior Chess here in Victoria since before the parents of the children who currently play in these tournaments were born. Her current absence from that arena is perplexing to say the least, but Junior Chess is being adequately covered by the largely well-meaning but inexperienced group of parents whose children happen to be presently involved in the game.

The simple fact is that were it not for the efforts of Lynn Stringer there would be no organized chess here in Victoria.

The UVSS Chess Club was pulled out of mothballs this year after sliding into defunct-ness in recent times. Jeff Cox, UVic student and bass player for the rockin' campus band Donkey Sex Machine, was one of the students who brought the chess club back to life last September. He says of the game, "Dude, chess is up there with rock and roll!"

The club has had a loyal attendance throughout the year, with levels from beginner all the way to master. Judy Arnie, local foot-bag champ and the club's only female regular says, "Chess rocks, man. I'm all about chess."

The club has purchased a "learn-to-play-chess" book and members are happy to teach beginners. The club's facilities are available to all students as well as community members. The club is not just for competent players, but for all students who wish to broaden their horizons.

Chess is a huge network of elements that reside in all facets of life. There are more books written about chess than any topic, other than romance. The chess library in Cleveland Ohio has over 250,000 volumes. The games of the greats of the past are all recorded, thanks to the very simple systems of notation. They are all sitting in books (and now on CD-ROMs) gathering dust on shelves. From Morphy, the great American chess master of the 19th century, through Lasker, Capablanca, Tal and the string of Soviet grandmasters, and Bobby Fischer; to the current giants such as Kasparov, Kramnik, Polgar and a host of others, the game of chess will change your life.

The Victoria Chess Club meets on Monday nights between 6:30pm and 10:30pm at the Silver Threads Club.

The UVSS Chess Club meets at UVic on Tuesday nights between the same hours in SUB B110 A & B.

The Web site for the Canadian Federation of Chess is www.chess.ca

This Side of West replaces reading with rager

by Sarah Petrescu

Usually when one thinks of a book launch, images of stale-still rooms and long drawn-out readings become pungent enough to knock one out. But organizers of the upcoming launch for *This Side of West* promise to rock the house on any preconceptions of stuffy literary events.

This Side of West is the annual publication of the UVic Writing Student Union (WSU). Each year, a volunteer crew edits, produces and promotes the book of jurored submissions. This year, the book includes over 50 artists working in mediums including fiction, poetry, visual art and dramatic works.

This Side of West dropped its former name, *The Inner Harbour Review*, to buff up its profile. The WSU opened themselves up to generate ideas for the new name. They rejected such titles as *I Can't Read, Dutch Rub, The Waxen Pith* and *Tall Bald Aunt* to opt for the current incarnation. As *This Side of West*, editor Leah Fairbanks hopes the publication sheds some of its in-house image to reach a broader audience.

"There is a sense that it's an inner department review, it's launched and then it fizzles," says Fairbanks, "We really wanted to change that this year. We want the book to be taken to the next step in terms of readership and publication."

Junior editor Briony Smith agrees that reinvigorating the book's image will only bring benefits. "It will encourage students to get excited about the book and submit more work," says Smith.

This Side of West did see an increase in submissions this year, and at 136 pages, the book is the longest WSU collection ever.

The book's launch party is planned to reflect the vivacity of the publication. The party opens with live music by Leigh Grisewood and Dan Wise. There will be nine readers across the genres and an art gallery selling pieces. Tim Sutherland directs a dramatic reading of Kieth Gracek's play *Say Something* and a compilation of video shorts narrated by writing instructor Brian Hendricks. After the planned events, dj Mama Miche spins for all those who need to cut it up on the dance floor.

Still think book launches sound boring?

Fairbanks says, "I challenge anyone to come to this launch and say that to me at the end of the night. There is no way."

The *This Side of West* book launch is at Lucky Bar at 7 p.m. Friday, March 28. Tix are $5 or $15 for entry, a book and special gift.

photo by Sarah Petrescu

Mrrrow...these editors have no time for waxen piths or tall bald aunts. Dutch rubs? You'll have to attend their launch to find out...

Dangerous minds: Matt Good meets Mark Samcoe

by Mark Samcoe

What are you up to?
"Just doing interviews, man."

What's life like on the road?
"Well, it's busy as hell. Every day it's like press and meeting people, and soundchecks. It's busy, but I don't particularily not like that. It beats doing nothing."

Is it wild?
"I'm kinda passed the whole staying up til five o'clock in the morning with the naked women and booze kinda thing. You get over that pretty quick."

What's your current fixation?
"Mozart's Requiem. You always have to enjoy pieces of music that the composer dies in the middle of."

What pisses you off most right now?
"I'm not particularily happy about the state of affairs in the world. Obviously things could be a little bit better there."

Okay, this one's a fill-in-the-blank. The Beastie Boys have Tibet, Bono has the Third World, Matthew Good has ___?
"I don't really kinda just single out one thing. I think the Tibetan issue is important, I think that Third World debt relief is a very important issue. Amnesty International—they kinda play into both of those things as well. I support the Juno Beach fund, which is to build a memorial for Canadian veterans in World War II in Normandy; various local charities in Vancouver for the homeless and whatnot. I'm involved in a lot of things and I try to keep myself aware and educated on a variety of different subjects pertaining to those sorts of things."

Does your label have much impact on how outspoken you are or can be?
"Well, obviously I get attention, but being on a major label has nothing to do with that. All they do is bankroll my records. That's their business. I got probably just as much attention when I was independent in Vancouver anyway, but sure, obviously being famous gives you a bit of a platform, a forum, I mean, but I don't think anything that I've really ever said has been in its entirety completely unfounded. I've been the victim of horrible editing."

Why did you call your record *Avalanche*?
"Because it represents an unstoppable force that you can do nothing to counter."

I've read that with this record you completely rethought your approach to creating art. Can you elaborate?
"Well, I had to find a different way to approach it because in the past I was the drowning man. I was kind of like this cash register that had been thrown into a body of water and everyone was watching it sink, and I had to find a positivity in working again. So that was my goal, my mandate, and I was lucky enough to succeed."

Why do you think what you do is important, or relevant?
"It's not so much the relevance of it. It's just that there has to be emancipation in your work. You have to find a sense of personal freedom and satisfaction, so for me it was kind of a cathartic process, where in the past it was kind of like going back into a room with no lights. So I had to kind of find that distinction and invoke a change."

Mathew Good recently played Victoria's Royal Theatre to promote his new album, Avalanche. Mark Samcoe wanted to go, but they wouldn't let him sit with Rich Cole—so he declined.

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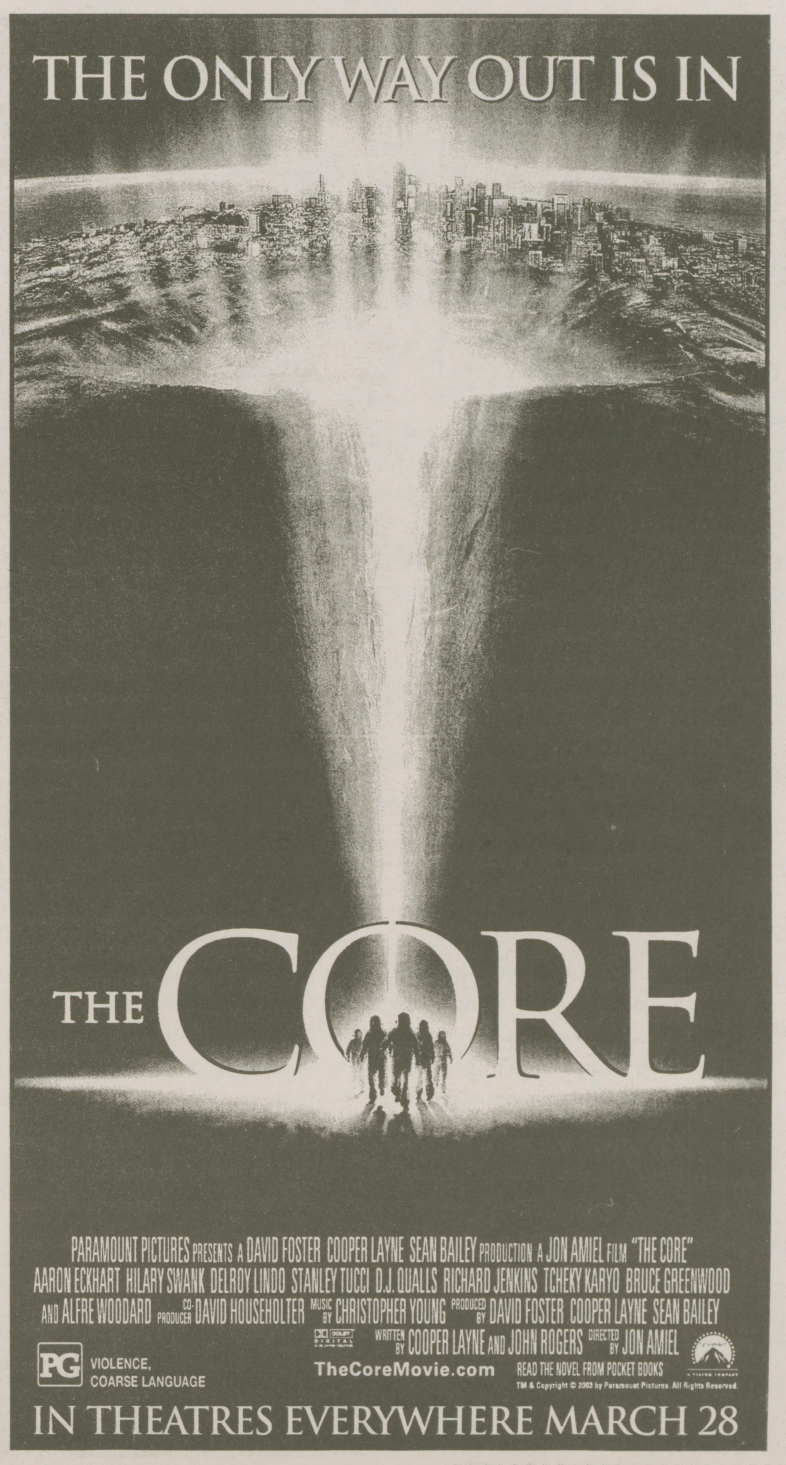
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New spaces: where to find the best bites, booze, and shows

by Sarah Petrescu

The Cherry Bank Hotel Lounge

825 Burdett Street

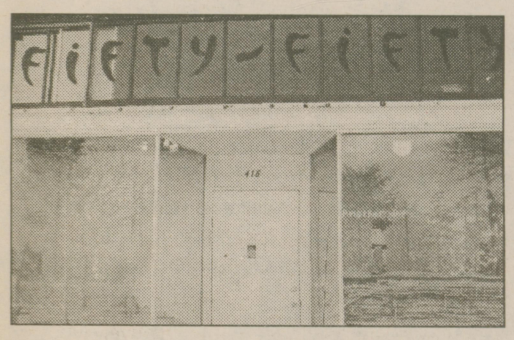
The Cherry Bank Hotel was established in 1897, so it's not exactly new in town. But, it was new to me and may be the oddest bar/lounge in the city.

It was described to me as a Lynch-esque watering hole with gambling. I was eager to check out a place that was guaranteed to not have token djs or martinis over six bucks.

Beyond the décor—oversized '80s hair salon portraits, velvet curtains and a few skulls—the Cherry Bank lounge is not much different than any other small-town bar. Which is probably the novelty for the few city-slickers who come to check it out. It kind of reminded of home—shooting Winnipeg red-eyes, drinking Blue and playing Keno before taking a two-four up the mountain and hacking nuts.

The lounge itself was nearly empty on Friday night, although both gambling rooms were packed—standing room only—with the obvious hardcores betting on the races. Tip: don't expect to pull up a chair in the smoke-filled betting room. You may be forced to "Take it outside."

My friends and I stuck to the oversized leather lounge booths and drank double G-and-T's for a mere five bones each. The highlight of the evening was my reaquaintance with Keno. With the help of a friendly regular and the surly bartender, we threw 20 bucks away in pure suspenseful fun. Although none of us won anything, I was reassured by a random guy-in-bar that if I played numbers 45 and 79 at two bucks a draw, I would be a shoe-in. Maybe next time.



The fifty/fifty

416 Craigflower Road

The latest newfangled artist's space in Victoria is the fifty/fifty. Started in January of this year (they had a New Year's opening), the fifty/fifty is run by a collective of 14 local artists and students. The storefront multi-venue hosts art exhibits, music shows and film nights, as well as other community events.

Organiser Carlin Dunsmoor-Farley says, "A few of us had been talking about doing this for a long time. We finally got to a place where we could do it, both financially and timewise."

According to Dunsmoor-Farley, the collective aims to offer space to local artists who might not get exposure in the bigger galleries around town. They also provide unique entertainment opportunites such as chess-and-pancake and rare-film nights on alternating Thursdays.

Dunsmoor-Farley ensures that the space is for the people who use it.

"It's is not just for us," she says, "but for the community."

For more info contact the fifty/fifty collective at fifty_fifty@hotmail.com

Rosie's Diner

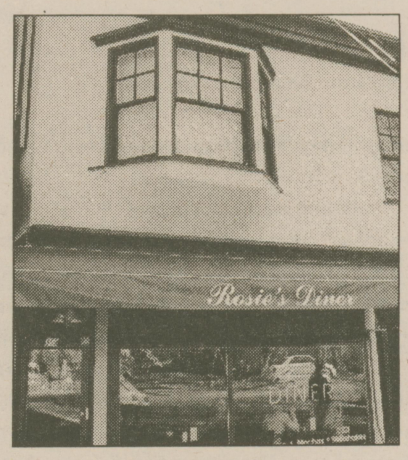
253 Cook Street

The diner has re-emerged and become a popular trend in town. We've put our pesto bennies and sundried tofu bacon on the backbench to harken back to the times of all-day breakfasts and sausage links.

But what makes the diner isn't the grease or '50s atmosphere—it's the prices and lack of pretensions.

Rosie's Diner is located in the heart of Cook St. village, the land of the friendly and well-adjusted. It shares owners, menu and staff with the other Rosie's on Johnson.

Having opened just a few weeks ago, the diner is still in the process of defining itself. As we dined, my friend kept looking around, squinting and commenting on the eclectic décor, "What do you think they're going for in here?"



We decided the mix of ultra-casual and semi-fancy reflected in the décor and menu was simply part and parcel of most places in Victoria—a smorgy of styles and influences in a place where anything goes.

Second Story Books

579 Johnson Street

Cozy and cool, the spacious loft that is Second Story Books is one of the most inviting new venues in town.

Second Story—made up of equal parts café, storage space and used-book store— is the brainchild/dreamstore of friends and business partners Kate Lackey and Ben Pollard.

"We've both wanted to do this forever," says Lackey. "We just jumped in."

Second Story creates an urban-hippie-lair environment with warmth and style. A much-needed alternative to Chapters, it provides space to read its goods, sip a hot beverage and lounge without feeling an overtly consumerist pressure to spend huge bucks on books.

"We have a lot of students in studying," says Lackey.

Second Story has a decent selection of books, is well organised and may be one of the few places in Victoria to pick up indie publications such as zines and chapbooks.

As a livespace venue, Second Story has one of the best set-ups for readings. Open and casual, the stage space fosters the laid-back ambience needed for more low-key performances. They also host live music and theatre performances.

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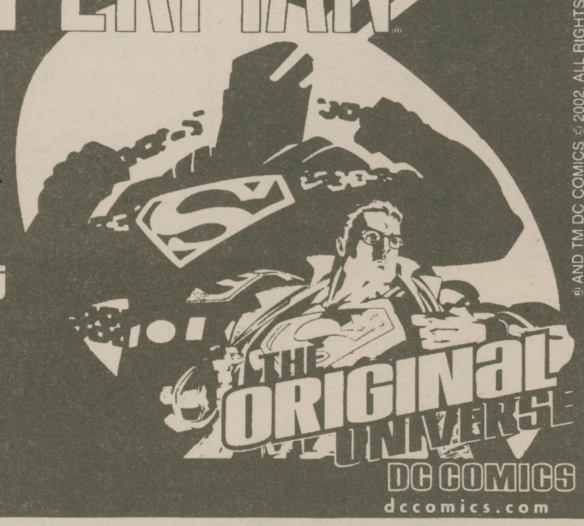

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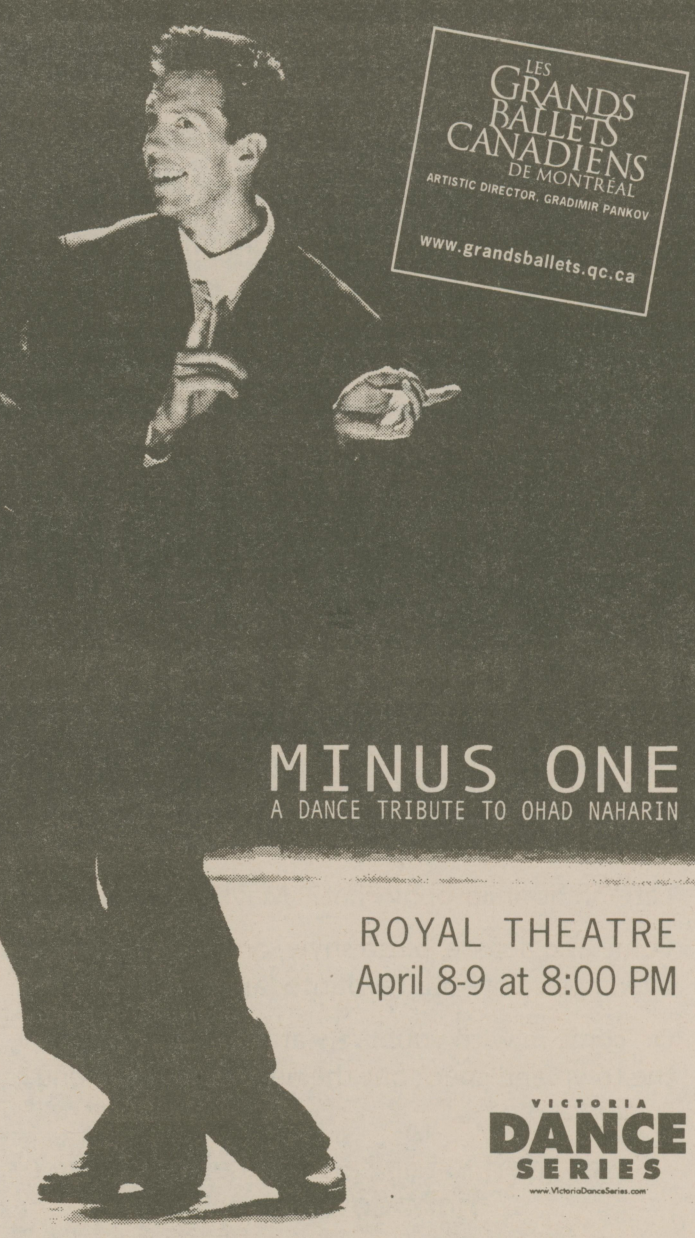

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All in the family: Mark Jarman heads for home with *Ireland's Eye*

by Suzanne Beaubien

Mark Anthony Jarman can't stand being called "gritty."

"I hate that word," he laughs. "What does it even mean? I just kind of write what I write."

Jarman is in town to promote his new non-fiction novel *Ireland's Eye*, which is a departure from the fiction he is known for, though it retains the same mosaic effect he sustains in his short story collections. The memoir/travel story, released in November 2002 by Anansi Press, follows Jarman's haphazard search for his roots as he researches the death of his grandfather, who died the same day Irish hero Michael Collins was buried.

Jarman made his first trip to Ireland in 1981, returning for a second time in 1997. Afraid to go back because he thought it would be "wrecked," when Jarman saw how much the country had changed, he wanted to write about it. After he returned from that trip, he went to the Banff writing workshop, where he holed up in the woods and wrote the story that would became the skeleton *Ireland's Eye* was built upon.

The story, which can be found in the book in an altered form, won the Event non-fiction contest. Jarman then went again to Ireland in 1999, and wrote a second story, which he sent to the Prism contest. He won again, and the challenge was then taking these two stories and making a book out of them.

"My editor was concerned there was no through-line or thread," Jarman says. "Also, the way I travel, and the way I write, is kind of random, so I didn't want to impose some kind of fake story. I didn't want to say, 'I'm here searching for this,' when I wasn't searching for anything. What happened, happened, and I thought, 'I'm going to write about it.'"

Indeed, though the story cruises into Ireland on a plane and then back out again at the end, the narrator jumps from one trip to another, peppering each chapter with dialogue from a dizzying cast of his Irish kin, all speaking in local slang.

"The way I write is kind of fragmented, in bits and pieces," he says about the book's construction. "I don't worry about that it all makes sense together."

Jarman culled the material for *Ireland's Eye* from journals he kept while on three different trips to his mother's homeland.

"You do a trip and you think, 'This is really vivid, I'll remember it,' and then years later, you can't," he says with a green cardboard covered book in his hands. While he usually relies on observations and imagination for his material, Jarman actually did some research for the non-fiction novel, something he usually avoids.

"I'm not very scholarly; I'm not an academic," he says, recalling days spent in Irish libraries, reading newspapers on Microfiche. "I can go years without being in a library. I tend to make stuff up."

Jarman's Irish relatives have yet to see the book, and he doesn't think he'll be showing it to them any time soon.

"They were these great characters. My aunts were hilarious," he says. Though he changed some names to maintain his family's privacy, Jarman still worried about exploiting his relatives. "People have said that they think it's pretty affectionate, and nobody's made to look bad," he says.

Jarman grew up in Edmonton, the youngest of six in an Irish Catholic family. He got his BA in creative writing from UVic in the '70s, before attending the Iowa Writer's Workshop, following the same literary path as Canadian writer W.P. Kinsella. Between degrees, Jarman drove a truck for the railroad in Alberta.

"I never had a five-year plan," he remembers. "I just thought I'd drive a tractor, and write on the side." But when he was accepted to the Iowa Writer's Workshop, he got a TAship, starting his teaching career. In 1987 UVic offered Jarman one class, paying $2600 for the year. He took it, hoping again to write on the side, and 13 years later he was offered a job at the University of New Brunswick, where he has been for the last three years.

photo illustration by Jocelyn Beyak

Mark Jarman: award-winning, world-traveling, pop-music-referencing, voice-adopting, multi-faceted, not-gritty-at-all king of Canadian words.

His stories have been short-listed for both the Journey Prize and the O. Henry Prize.

19 Knives, his 2000 collection of short stories won the relit Award and his non-fiction has won the Maclean-Hunter Endowment Award, as well as gold in the 2002 National Magazine Award.

While he says his story ideas come from both friends on his hockey team and his kids, Jarman says he's also influenced by American writers.

"I'm a bit of a sponge. I take from everywhere."

He cites Salinger, Faulkner and Des Pasos as influences when he was a younger writer. Music is also an obvious influence on Jarman's writing; he drops in song and band references as frequently as other writers allude to Shakespeare. He writes in *Ireland's Eye*: "We're zooming over the real volcanoes of trendy Iceland and Sigur Ros."

"I like collage effects, and music is just one of those parts. I know that certain bands (like Joy Division) have influenced me as much as writers did," he says. "Maybe the fact that I don't always do happy endings comes from liking depressing music."

One current influence is Cat Power, whom he loves.

"She does 'Satisfaction' and it's hilarious, because she doesn't do the chorus. It's just 'Driving... in... my... car,'" he sings slow and melancholy-like, head hanging to mimic the broody songstress, and then laughs. "I love it, I don't know why."

Because of his tendency to reference popular bands and movies, as well as urban legends, many critics and even his current publisher thought he was younger than his middle-aged years.

"I guess I'm a bit of a magpie, I'm always picking up stuff. Like on the plane I saw a guy reading a bike magazine and it had the word 'gearhead.'"

He liked the word, so he wrote it down and imagines he will one day "throw it in a sentence somewhere."

Though his writing seems young, Jarman says he wants to avoid what he sees as a trap of writing to a generation: "You don't want to say, 'look how hip I am.'"

Since his first collection of short stories *Dancing Nightly in the Tavern* was published, Jarman says his voice has changed.

"I really like writing in voices now," he says. "I used to write more third-person, like 'Hank went to the bar, and Hank did this,' but now I like first-person and just getting into a voice. It's not really mine, but I really like collecting phrases or words, and putting them together."

"Why write about really normal stuff, when you can write about stuff that is a little bit off?" he asks. "For me the operative word is 'interesting.'"

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The Sweatpant Superstars are too comfort for cool

by Vanessa Neuman

photo submitted

Rollin' with the homies: The Sweatpants Superstars share a recipe for a low-budget phone bill.

At first glance, the two guys opening for hip-hop bad-ass Josh Martinez at a recent Lucky Bar show might have seemed rather unassuming. First to take the stage was Parker Lewis, who proceeded to grab a microphone, sit on the edge of the stage and tell the crowd a story about fishing. His partner in crime, Thes Wrex, joined him shortly. Wearing sweatpants and t-shirts they don't exactly look like your typical MCs, but put mics in their hands, back them with some beats and these guys can sure rap. Welcome to the world of the Sweatpant Superstars. I recently had the chance to speak to these role-defying rappers.

Martlet: Where did the name Sweatpant Superstars come from?

Parker: It was a song we did originally, but it's based on a wider idea of wanting to work in sweatpants because that's the ultimate lazy way to make money. It's the idea of being employed while relaxing.

Martlet: How did you know that you wanted to MC?

Thes: Me and my buddies were into it. I was, like, 15 at the time, getting drunk and freestyling. It just developed from there.

Parker: For me, I've always liked entertaining and doing silly things, so it was a natural progression from entertaining into "How can I do it more?" Rapping was something that I really enjoyed so I was like, "Hey, why don't I try that?" and it worked out.

Martlet: Can anyone learn to freestyle, or is it more a talent that you either have or you don't?

Parker: I think anyone can do it. To what extent I don't know. The problem with people that just try it is they'll do only one line. Like, "I'm going to rap and it's like that," and then they'll stop. But if you keep going and repeat yourself you just get better at it.

Thes: Some people are more inclined to have a natural ability to do it, obviously, but when I first started it I sucked bad, so I worked on it and it started to grow on me.

Parker: I can vouch for that. He was pretty terrible. You have to have some grasp of word control to begin with though. I mean, if you're totally lost English-wise than I guess you can freestyle but you have to have some basis to start with.

Martlet: So how do you improve your skill?

Thes: Practice. It's all practice.

Parker: Competition is good too. It helps to have something to feed off. To have something and be like, "That was good. I want to do it better." Also keep reading and evolving as a person to have more material to talk about. It's all about reading. Reading is important.

Thes: This guy appreciates reading.

Martlet: Where do the inspirations for your lyrics come from?

Thes: From my perception on life. Sometimes I have fun with it; sometimes I get serious about it. Inspiration comes from everything.

Martlet: So, there's nothing particular that you're trying to highlight?

Parker: I think we both try to be as honest as possible. What I record and what I write and what I get across is all me and I know Ian (Thes) is the same way. There's not a lot of fabrication. There is poetic license and embellishment though. For example, I've never thrown a spear at the sun but I have written a rap about it.

Martlet: If someone were going to see one of your shows for the first time, going in blind, how would you describe your style?

Parker: Uuhhh. Ian hits them with some solid rap and I act weird on stage.

Thes: Yeah, I guess I'm the rapper and he's the eccentric musician. It's all about having fun.

Parker: We want you and your mom to come and both have fun.

Martlet: What's the best compliment you could get after a show?

Thes: We're like rapping Fabios.

Parker: (laughs) No, that's probably not it. The biggest compliments come from the people who didn't come to see rap and just are like, "Wow, you guys are really good." The rap fans that come I sort of expect to be like, "Cool. Rap."

Martlet: Is there anything particular going through your heads when you first get up on stage?

Thes: Well, the only time I ever felt stage fright was at my very first show doing the mic check. Now I feel more comfortable on stage than I would getting up in front of people in a classroom.

Parker: Yeah, I feel way more comfortable in front of a crowd. I hate parties. I hate going out. I can't stand it, but I love being in front of people. I get up on stage and go, "Wow, this is fun."

Thes: I zone out a lot of the time.

Martlet: What makes a typical Sweatpant Superstars show?

Parker: The sweatpants. And we're entertaining.

Thes: Yeah, we're energetic. My voice is basically dead by the end of the show.

Parker: It's the most exciting thing in the world to have friends and people you don't know come down and support you and cheer and enjoy your music. It's more rewarding than anything, and we just try to give that back.

The Sweatpant Superstars are having their album release party on Thursday, April 10, at Steamers.

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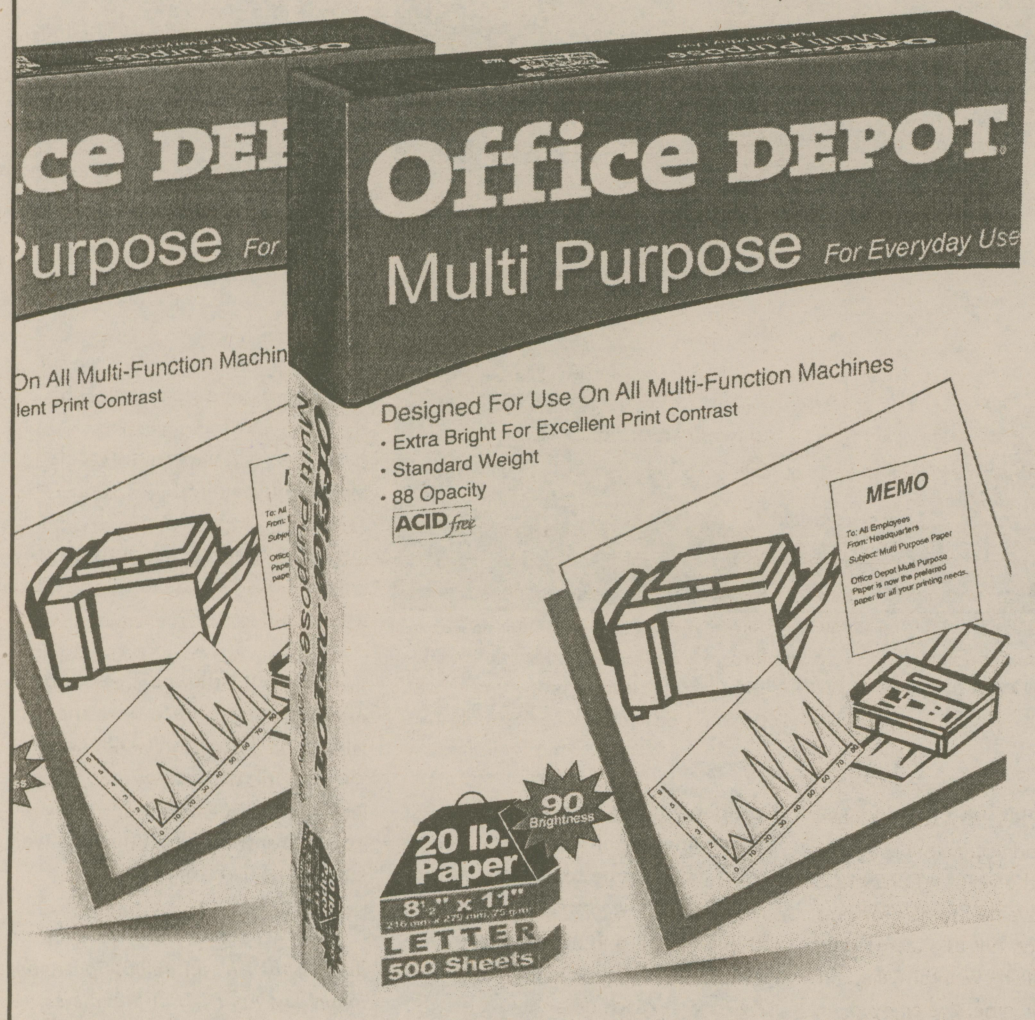

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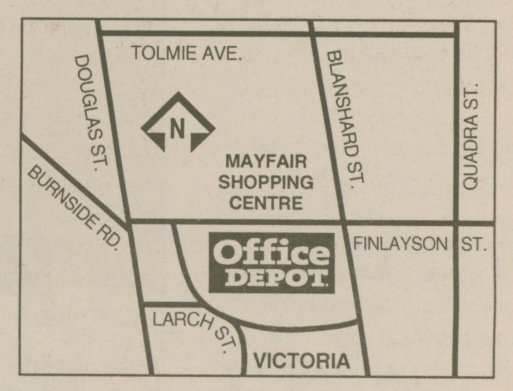

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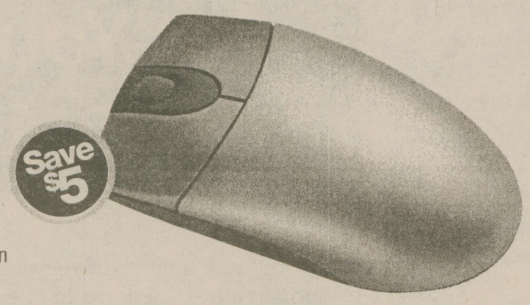

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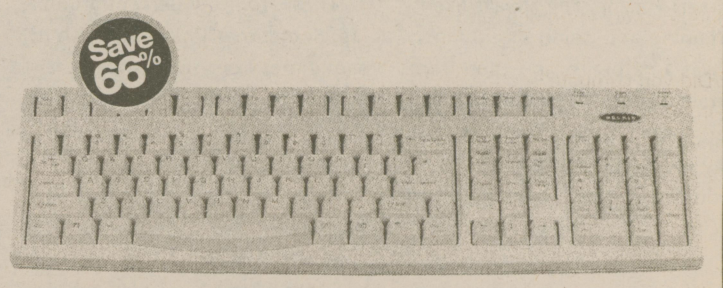

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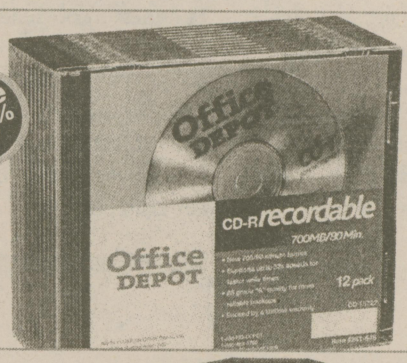

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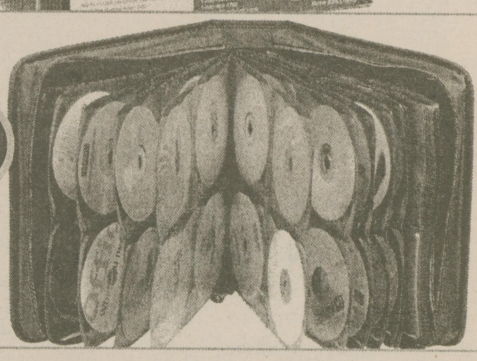

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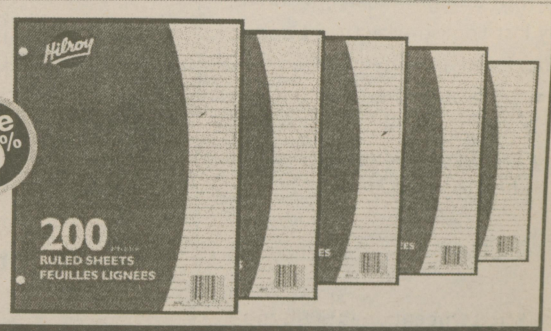

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Sister Act: Two-sport twins' social sacrifices are par for the course

by Ruth Knoop

Most varsity athletes are quick to talk about the difficulties that come with being both a student and an athlete simultaneously. Many struggle to balance academics and athletics, often sacrificing studying for sport. Imagine the pressure of participating in not one but two varsity sports while maintaining full-time student status. This is the case for varsity golfers and middle-distance runners Nancy and Karen Fedoruk.

This past week, I sat down with the 21-year-old twin sisters to talk about life as a student and varsity athlete in not one, but two sporting events.

Immediately, it's easy to see that, although identical in age, appearance and love for sports, there are many differences between the two. Karen, presently studying her third year of geography, appears to be the more reserved and shy of the two. Although Karen contributed to the conversation, she was much quieter and seemed content just letting her sister Nancy, a third-year biology student, dominate most of the conversation.

Ruth: When did you first start participating in these sports?
Nancy: [At UVic] we started our first year doing cross-country and track, and last year was the first year for the varsity program of golf.
Karen: We've been members of Uplands Golf Course since we were 12, and golfed a little before that. As well, we've been running with a team associated with UVic since we were in grade seven or six.
Nancy: We started running with our elementary school in grade four.

Ruth: Did you compete in other sports throughout school?
Karen: We didn't participate in golf until high school. It was pretty much the guys who had golf in high school. So we played volleyball and basketball. We pretty much did everything.

Ruth: Why did you choose to attend UVic?
Nancy: Originally for the running program and to stay close to home.
Karen: We live 10 minutes away from here, so it was quite convenient to stay.

Ruth: What would you consider to be your greatest accomplishment, sports-wise, so far? I know that one of you went to Nationals recently; what was that like?
Nancy: That was good; our relay team did quite well. We were a new team, but it went well—just being part of the cross-country team at CI's was really great.
Karen: To be part of a team that has done so well—it's a privilege to run with them.

Ruth: Do you have a preference between the two kinds of running (track and cross-country)?
Nancy: For track? The indoor track is 200m so it has really tight corners, where as 400m is so nice.
Karen: I like the outdoors; I find indoors a little stuffy. Being able to have different scenery when you are running is quite nice. It changes with the season. I like doing cross-country during the winter when it is wet outside and fun, but in the summer when it's hot it's nice to be on the track
Nancy: They're completely different sports. In one, you're racing in the mud going around corners, and the other you are racing around a track going as fast as you can, getting pushed and shoved. It is a different game plan.

Ruth: What is it like competing in two sports? Have you had to give up a lot for it?
Karen: It is something that we knew we were getting into. There are conflicts between the two sports for sure, but we've been able to manage.

Ruth: What is it like competing against each other? Is it good, or does it piss you off when one of you does better than the other?
Karen: We are very supportive of each other; it is quite different to run against your twin sister than another competitor from another school.

Ruth: Have there ever been times when you guys are neck and neck in a race, and one of you just manages to squeeze ahead at the finish line?
Nancy: (laughing) There have been times. We both do the same events for track and cross-country.

Ruth: What is your training routine like?
Nancy: We train with track and cross-country pretty much three times a week, and we do off- day runs with them. It takes a lot of time.
Karen: You have to have a lot of balance, it's hard, especially with the lighting, to get out and do a few holes of golf. Both coaches are supportive of us, with what we are doing.

Ruth: What are your goals for the sports you play?
Karen: For golf—it's a new sport for women at UVic—I want to promote golf for girls and hopefully become stronger over the years in numbers, because we have had some problems getting girls out, but as a team I think we should do fairly well this year and in the years to come. I've enjoyed running since I was little, so being able to continue doing that until I am old is wonderful (laughs), and to be injury-free.
Nancy: I don't know, you always want to run faster or get a lower score in golf

Ruth: Is it worth it, the loss of free time?
Karen: For sure, we are doing something that we love. We are fortunate to be able to do two sports, most athletes have to choose one; we have this option so we're going to take it.

Ruth: What would you consider to be the highlight?
Karen: I think it's pretty cool to be recognized for doing sports.
I think it helps that both of us are doing this. When we are both stressed we can help each other out. You realize that it's not too bad when you have someone helping you through it.

Ruth: What would you consider to be the low point in your athletic career? Have you had any regrets?
Nancy: Every opportunity I have had has been a great learning experience, even if it hasn't gone so well. You miss out on some things, but it balances out in the end.
Karen: You lose your social life.

Ruth: How do you get along with the rest of your team?
Nancy: That is where we get to socialize and get to have fun. I love it; I look forward to running and golfing each day and seeing everybody
Karen: They are a lot of fun, a lot better than running by yourself.

Ruth: What do you do in your limited down-time?
Karen: *Schoolwork (laughs).*
Nancy: We like to do anything outdoors. (laughs) It seems kinda funny, but I would probably go for a run too.

photo by Mark Samcoe

Leaders of the pack Karen (left) and Nancy (right) are anything but twisted sisters.

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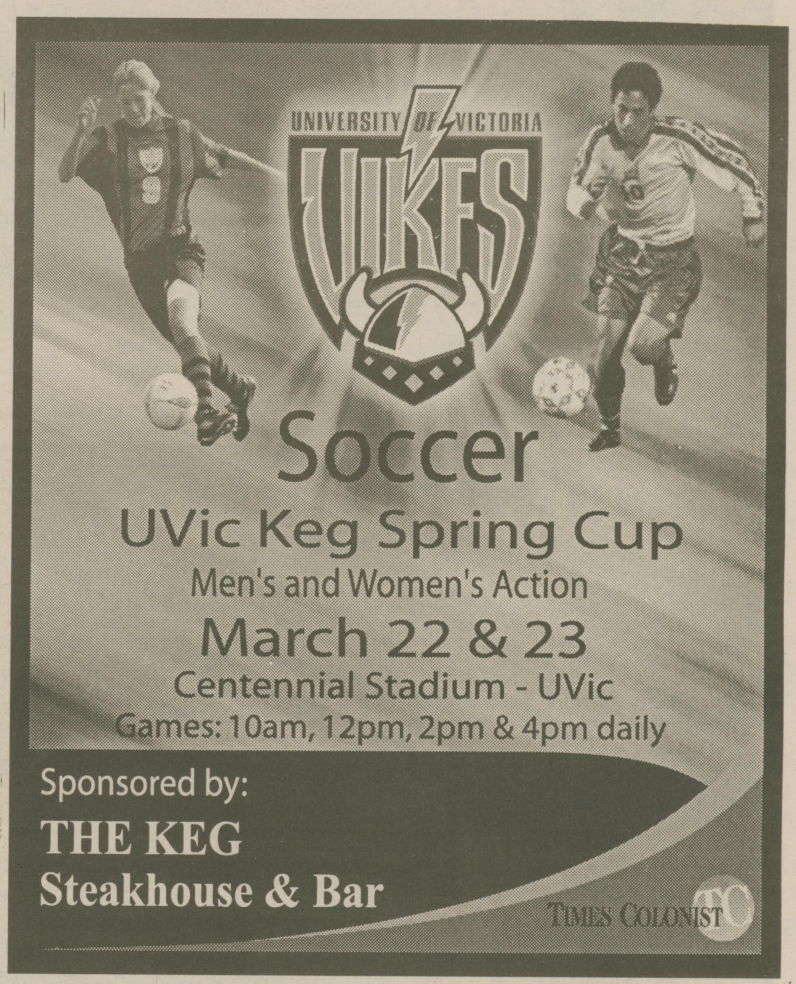

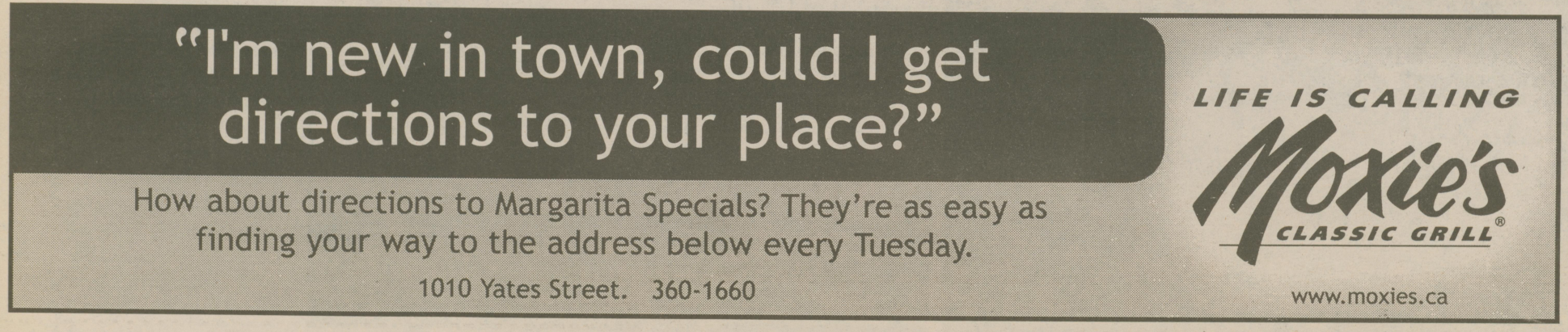
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Sports Call

Is jock-talk cheaper than a pair of nosebleeds in the political arena?

by Dave Brietman

On Thursday, March 20, "The Star Spangled Banner" echoed faintly through the Bell Centre as the Montreal Canadiens and New York Islanders stood bewildered on their respected blue lines. The shocked looks spread across almost every face were a result of the boisterous boos filling the arena as fans protested the United States' recent military actions overseas.

Though the act of anthem-booing is not foreign to the NHL, last Thursday's now-infamous occurrence begs two very serious and significant questions. The first is whether or not the war in Iraq is politically, socially and morally just; and second whether or not the sports world is the proper forum for debate.

Since the former question isn't going to be answered in an article by a first year science major, I think it will be more productive to address the latter.

When Muhammad Ali took a stance against the Vietnam war in 1968, he gave the unrecognized dissidents of America a public figure to stand up for their cause. However, as he forfeited his heavy-weight championship and turned in his gloves and robe for a stylish orange jumpsuit, Ali was not revered or admired but rather abandoned and ostracized by writers, commentators and fans. His actions were deemed un-American as his popularity dropped faster than Joe Frazier in Manila.

In 1996, in front of three billion people in Atlanta, the once-condemned heavyweight lit the torch for the Olympic Games; an athletic competition intended to create international unity. As he lit the flame, many of the same critics who condemned Ali's actions retrospectively regarded his behavior as valiant and courageous.

Thirty-five years and thousands of athletes later, politics and sports have found themselves intertwined yet again with athletes voicing opinions and the critics manifesting theirs.

"We're not paying money to listen to them talk," exclaimed ESPN's Tony Kornheiser. "I pay to see a game, not a debate."

Several other analysts shared the talk-show host's opinion.

"Athletes are not political forecasters," commented The Fan's Will Lesser. "There are other people to do that sort of thing."

Therein lies the problem; there aren't. With a proverbial muzzle placed firmly over Hollywood's usually boisterous mouth and the threat of exile looming over the heads of "un-American" reporters, the list of possible dissidents is decreasing everyday.

Michael Landsberg, host of TSN's *Off the Record* suggested that "good causes should have no restrictions, and that a positive message should never be silenced." He further added, "Although the actions of some are distasteful, individuals should not be afraid to express themselves."

Though athletes may not be the best spokespeople for political fallacy, their voices and opinions provide the often neglected anti-war viewpoint the much needed airtime CNN and NBC fail to provide. Athletes such as Steve Nash and Jarome Iginla have peacefully expressed their beliefs on an issue so controversial it would be ludicrous to simply acknowledge one side.

Does this mean that I unconditionally support athletes constantly offering opinions on the current state of the world? Of course not. The last thing I want to see is the hockey rink turned into a political chat-room with everyone from the broadcast booth to concession stands giving their righteous indignations of an unjust war. Sports, and the world of entertainment should be just that: entertaining. A hockey game should serve as a solace from daily issues, not another lecture hall lead by Professor Bertuzzi.

Though pucks and politics make strange bedfellows and should generally remain independent of one another, it is important to realize that in trying times we must accept the opinions given by members of a democratic society and refuse to silence those who oppose them.

photo by Ruth Knoop

Not quite A-1

Vikes flame-broiled at Keg Cup

by Ruth Knoop

The Vikes Men's and Women's soccer teams had disappointing results this past weekend at the annual Keg Eatery Spring Cup tournament.

The tournament was moved from Centennial Stadium to the adjacent warm-up pitch due to poor field conditions from the recent weather, and Portlan's Concordia University withdrew because of player-eligibility issues.

The men started strong with a 2-0 win over Victoria-based Bays United on Saturday afternoon. Several Vikes alumni were members of United. Former teammates Derek Wilson and last year's Captain Nico Craverio provided strong opposition to the Vikes, but were unable to get the ball past Vikes goaltender Jordan Robinson. Vikes forward Pat Laing scored both goals for UVic: the first, a header, and the second coming off a post rebound just a few minutes later.

On Sunday, the men were not so fortunate as they lost 2-0 to their UBC rivals in the final. The T-Birds came on strong right from the start, scoring both of their goals in the first half. Robinson proved once again how invaluable he is, keeping UBC from gaining a bigger lead when he dove to intercept Mike Gomes' bomb from the six-yard marker. The Vikes' best chance at scoring came during the first half, from Mark Cristante, whose 25-yard blast just missed the top of the net.

The women's squad had an even tougher time than the men, going 0-2 over the weekend. In their first game, against the University of Alberta Pandas, the Vikes' offence dominated the first-half but couldn't penetrate the Pandas' defence. Heather Stewart and Kate Hambleton had the best scoring chances for the Vikes. Hambleton was stopped by the Pandas' keeper on a break-away attempt early in the second half, while Stewart managed to beat the goalie but was denied a goal when the ball hit the post. Alberta's Andrea Aitkenhead scored both goals for the Pandas, securing a place in the final, and sending the Vikes to the consolation round.

Sunday's consolation final proved to be a real heartbreak for the women as they fell 1-0 to the SFU Clan. Both teams controlled the ball equally, with many scoring chances provided by Gillian Bigsby and Jeanette McKay. Early in the first half, SFU's Leslie Gibbens scored what turned out to be the game-winner. The Vikes battled hard, but couldn't beat SFU's goaltender.

Simon Fraser's men's team went on to win the consolation final over Bay's United 3-0, while the Alberta Pandas defeated the UBC Thunderbirds 3-2 in the Women's final.

Despite the losses, it proved to be a fun and exciting weekend for the teams. "We had the best tournament," said Men's head coach Bruce Wilson. "It was disappointing for the results, but everyone had a fair chance to prove themselves."

Both Wilson and Women's coach Tracy David used this tournament as preparation for next year's season.

"We had five first year guys out there on Sunday against UBC who did not step on the field at all during the first half of the season," said Wilson. "This tournament gives me the chance to see how they play against strong teams."

The weekend was not just about playing soccer, as one of its highlights was the banquet Saturday night.

"The Keg did a fantastic job putting on the dinner and sponsoring us," said Wilson.

All in all, it proved to be a great weekend for all who attended.

"It was a good way to end the season, prepare for next year, and get the kids ready for their exams," said Wilson.

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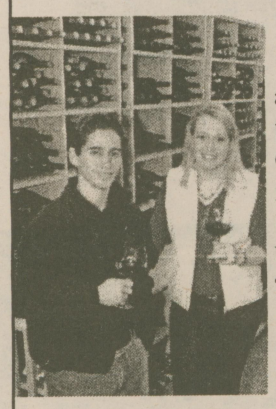

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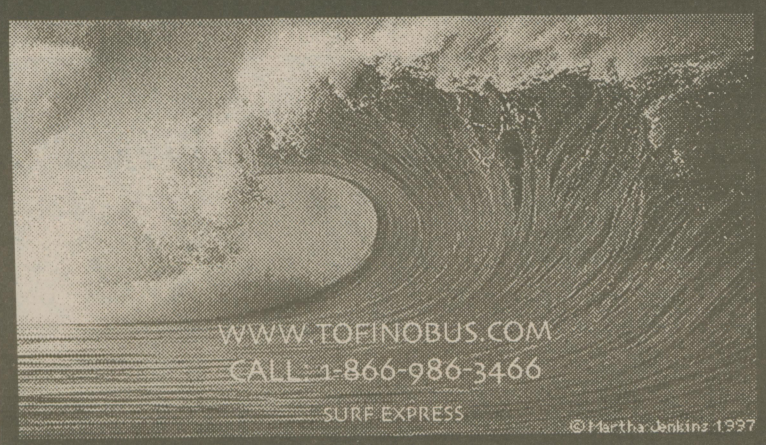

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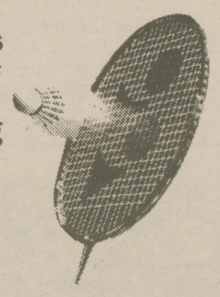

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Spandex, cinnamon buns and self-fulfillment:

UVic's Fun Run threesome, as reported by Simon Corman

by Simon Corman

It was not in my best interest to go out Friday night. The UVic 5km Fun Run was at 10 a.m. the following morning, and I knew that my hung-over body would never get out of bed, especially not to run a race. So, I took it easy, exchanging beer for water, and watching CNN until the propaganda lulled me to sleep.

For some reason, on race day I never need an alarm clock. At 6:30 a.m., I awake to a flood of golden rays. At 6:45, the power goes out—coincidentally at the exact same moment I turn on CNN. Eventually the power comes back on and I realize it is time to go.

It's a windy, cold day as I walk towards the aged and empty McKinnon Gym. Sometimes I wonder if the spirits of ancient warriors live in the rafters of the building's ceiling. Closing my eyes, I see visions of alumni ghosts shooting game-winning free throws.

After registering for the race, I begin to methodically sip water and prepare for my pre-race ritual of yoga. It's 9:15 now and I head outside towards the biting wind to begin the stretching routine. For some reason, I have difficulty calming my mind this morning. It's as if my brain wants to jump out of my skull and race my body to the finish line. Cursing softly to myself, I blame my restlessness on pre-race nerves, the weather, and the war.

It's 20 minutes now to race time, and the gym is alive with anticipation. Around 100 fitness brothers and sisters, decked out in spandex, have joined me in this athletic ritual. It's almost race time, and one student is simply highlighting passages in a textbook, apparently immune to any anxiety and tension towards competition. Other people are jumping, talking, drinking and running.

Some people are even in the process of covering themselves with metallic green wrapping paper and tying themselves together. These are the Centipedes, who run as a team, covered in funny costumes, connected by rope. Some of the Centipede participants include the K9s; a team with painted whiskers and rubber noses on their faces', attempting to look like dogs. They are connected to each other by leashes, and joined by everyone's best friend, a dog! There are a bunch of girls from residence simply dressed in their nightgowns. I avoid these girls, afraid that my spandex will reveal too much. Besides, there's no time for such thoughts—IT'S RACE TIME!

Approaching the start line, I am mesmerized by the warm-up routine of the UVic's varsity track-and-field team. They look like race horses ready to explode from the starting gate with power and agility you could only dream of. Starting position is important in relation to how competitive you want to race. If you are fast, you go to the front, and eventually I position myself quite close to the starting pack.

The start is anticlimactic. For some reason, when a race finally begins, I always find it difficult to comprehend that the preparation of weeks of training are over and that the race is finally underway. The varsity team glides quickly ahead, at such a pace that within one minute they are already out of my sight. Shaking my head in disbelief, I begin to exercise my personal race strategy. Starting slow for the first 2 km, I want to finish the final 1.5 km quickly and sprint the last 500 meters. My goal is a time of less than 27 minutes.

The first kilometer takes me five minutes. I pace myself behind a father and his uncomfortable daughter. "I'm thirsty," she says to him. "That's why you want to drink lots of water the night before," he tells her.

The wind is still blowing hard, often at just the right angle to slow you down with icy precision. You forget that you are not simply racing against other competitors. You are also racing against the weather, the clock, and most importantly yourself.

It takes me a couple of kilometers to feel comfortable and allow the adrenalin to numb my chronically sore knees and ankles, but I feel okay as the race progresses and I begin to pass a few people. As I pass a couple of 30-year-old women, I hear one of them whisper under her panting breath, "Bastard. He never had to squirt out a baby between his legs!" I think about turning my head to offer a witty reply, but what could I say? She is right.

Hitting the 20-minute mark, I know the finish line is not that far off, so I step on the gas and speed up. The wind is now behind me, and it seems to push me towards the final straight. Passing a few people, I finish the race with a time of 25 minutes and 17 seconds. I continue pacing around, hoping to relax my tightening muscles and my elevated heart rate. Once after a high school race I couldn't stop vomiting and almost passed out, so now I simply keep moving. My time might seem fast, but I finished a full 10 minutes behind the men's winner, and seven minutes behind the women's winner, UVic alumnus Stephanie Mills.

Mills, presently coaching a group in preparation for the upcoming Garden City 10km race, was quick to tell me a story about how the UVic track-and-field team was kicked off the jogging track at Centennial Stadium one Saturday morning by an unfriendly building attendant. "UVic doesn't have the same respect for athletes as some other schools do," another member of the team explains.

I ponder this as I eat my post-race meal of cinnamon buns, muffins, juice and water. During the awards ceremony, some athletes wait for their trophies, while others take off early and are nowhere to be seen when their names are called out.

photo by Mark Creery

UnTrutchable. Trutch residents Alex Andoni, Shanna Husband, Chloe Ash-Anderson, Liz Estey, Chris Britten and Bryannie Kirk trot their stuff in the Uvic Fun Run last Saturday. Their "Trutchipede" won the Campus Spirit Award for best campus team.

One of the girls on the housecoat Centipede team complains about how she was so hung-over after seeing Matthew Good the night before that she basically had to be dragged behind the rest of the team.

By noon, it's all over.

The gym is almost empty as the race volunteers pack away the remaining food and fold up the advertising banners.

I head home, eager about the next race, pondering the need for self-fulfillment. Some of us realize our goals, while others never get the chance.

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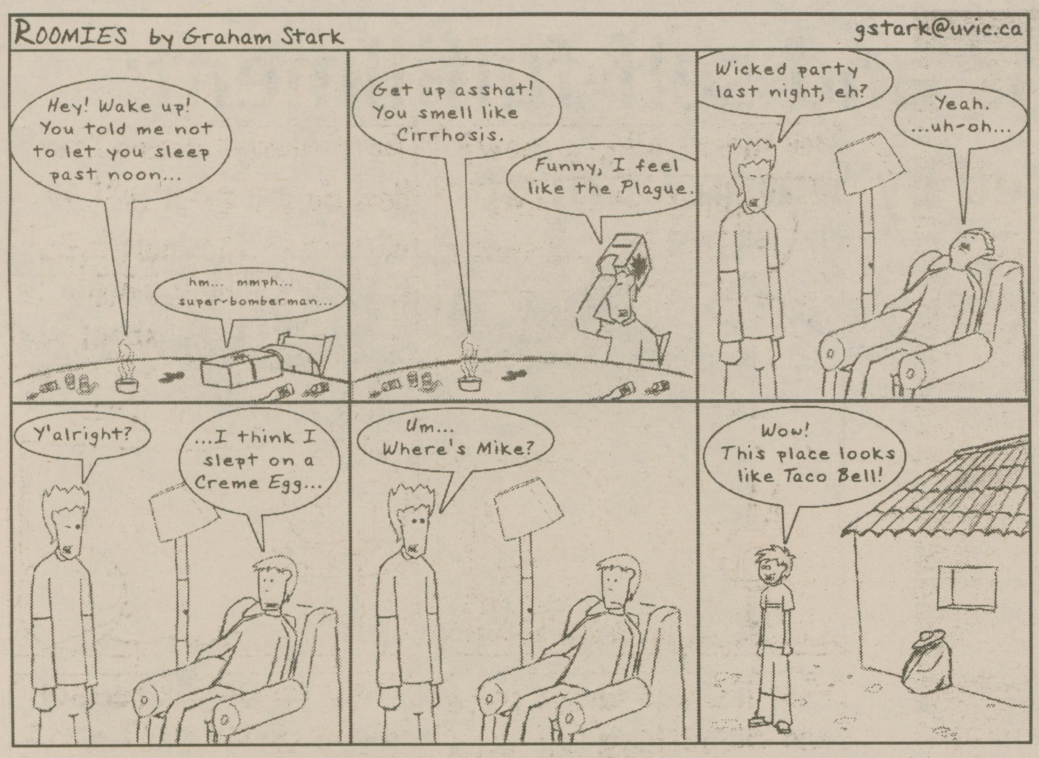
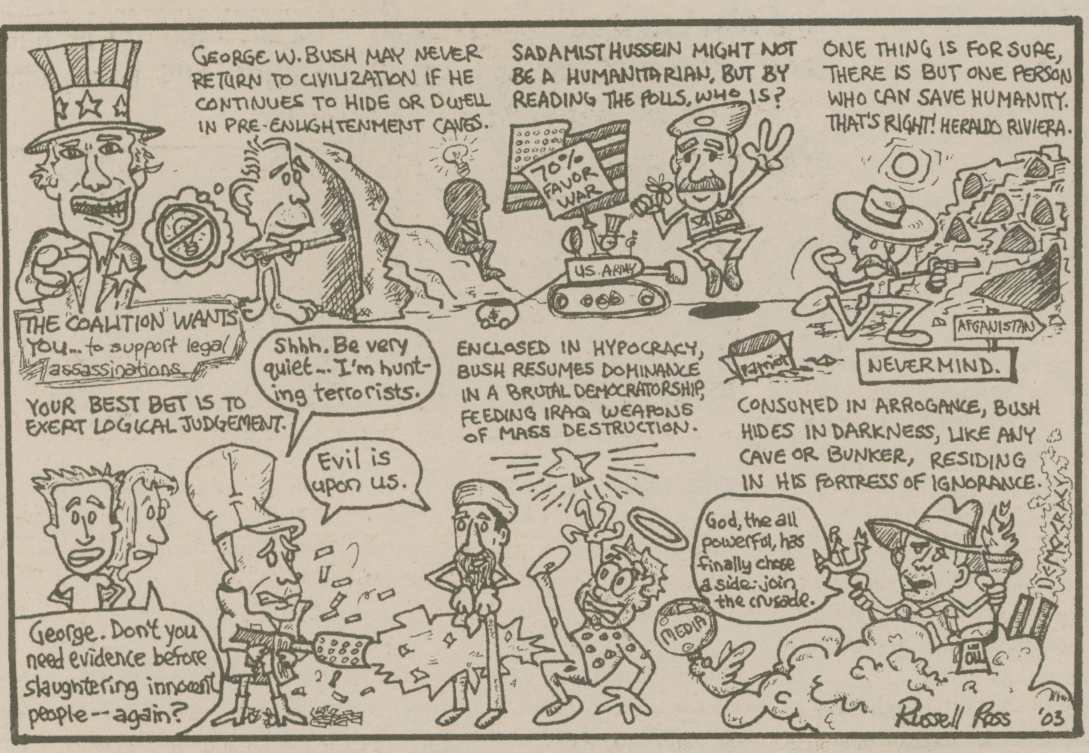

ROOMIES by Graham Stark
gstark@uvic.ca
Hey! Wake up! You told me not to let you sleep past noon...
hm... mmph... super-bomberman...
Get up asshat! You smell like Cirrhosis.
Funny, I feel like the Plague.
Wicked party last night, eh?
Yeah. ...uh-oh...
Y'alright?
...I think I slept on a Creme Egg...
Um... Where's Mike?
Wow! This place looks like Taco Bell!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NEVERMIND.
CONSUMED IN ARROGANCE, BUSH HIDES IN DARKNESS, LIKE ANY CAVE OR BUNKER, RESIDING IN HIS FORTRESS OF IGNORANCE.
George. Don't you need evidence before slaughtering innocent people -- again?
God, the all powerful, has finally chose a side: join the crusade.
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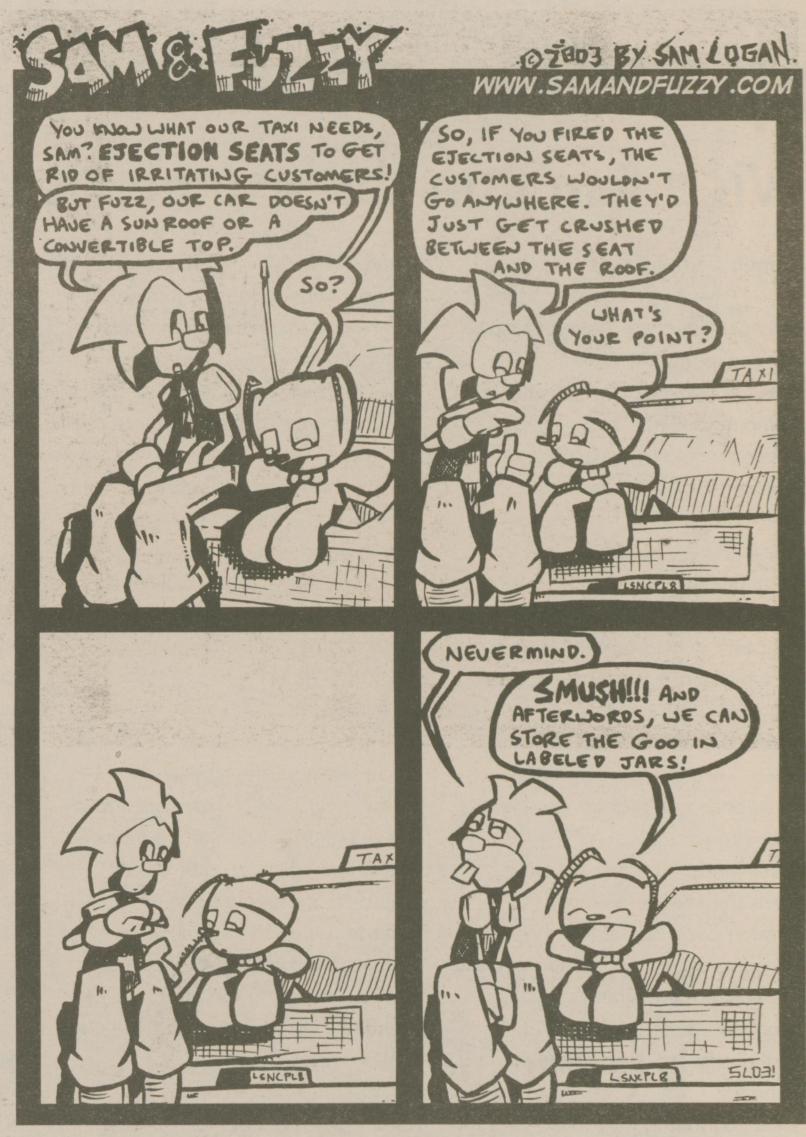
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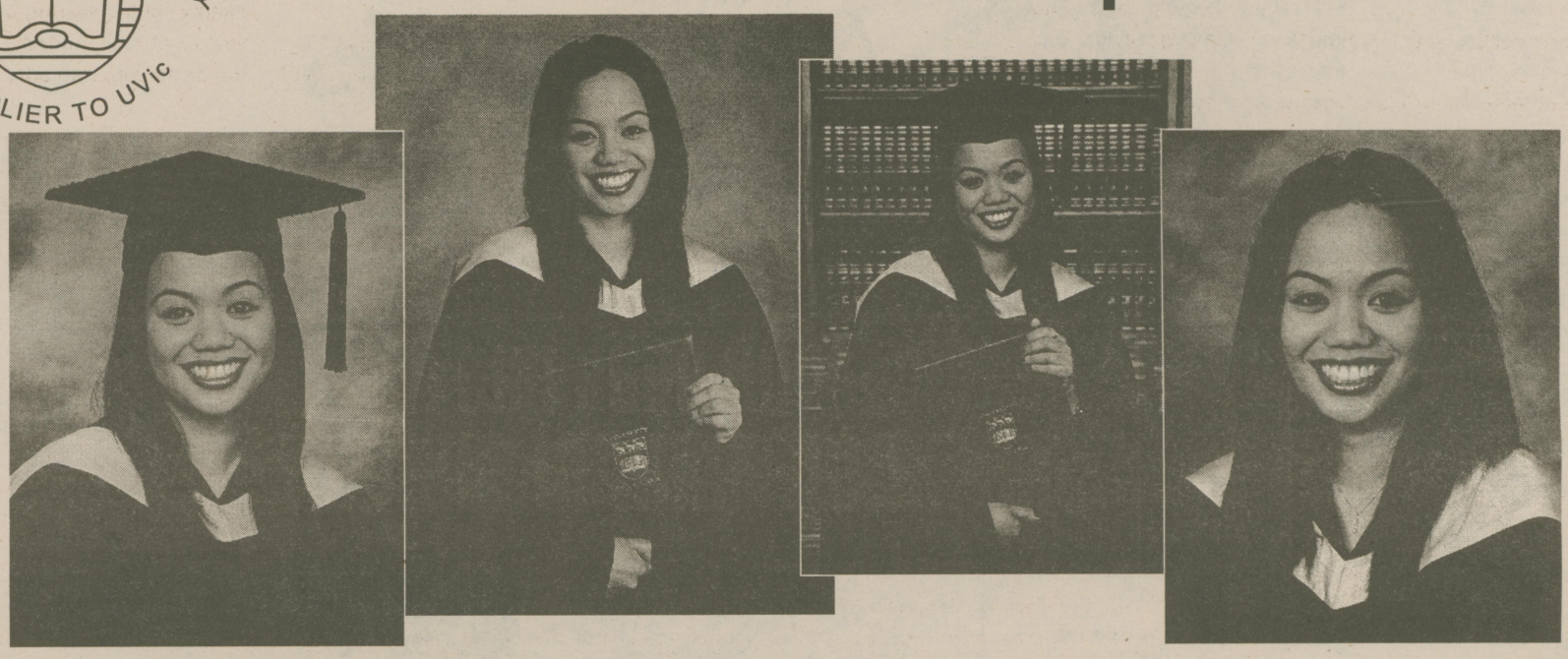

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Oh, Joe! I'm so happy!
It's so hard to actually find a guy. . .
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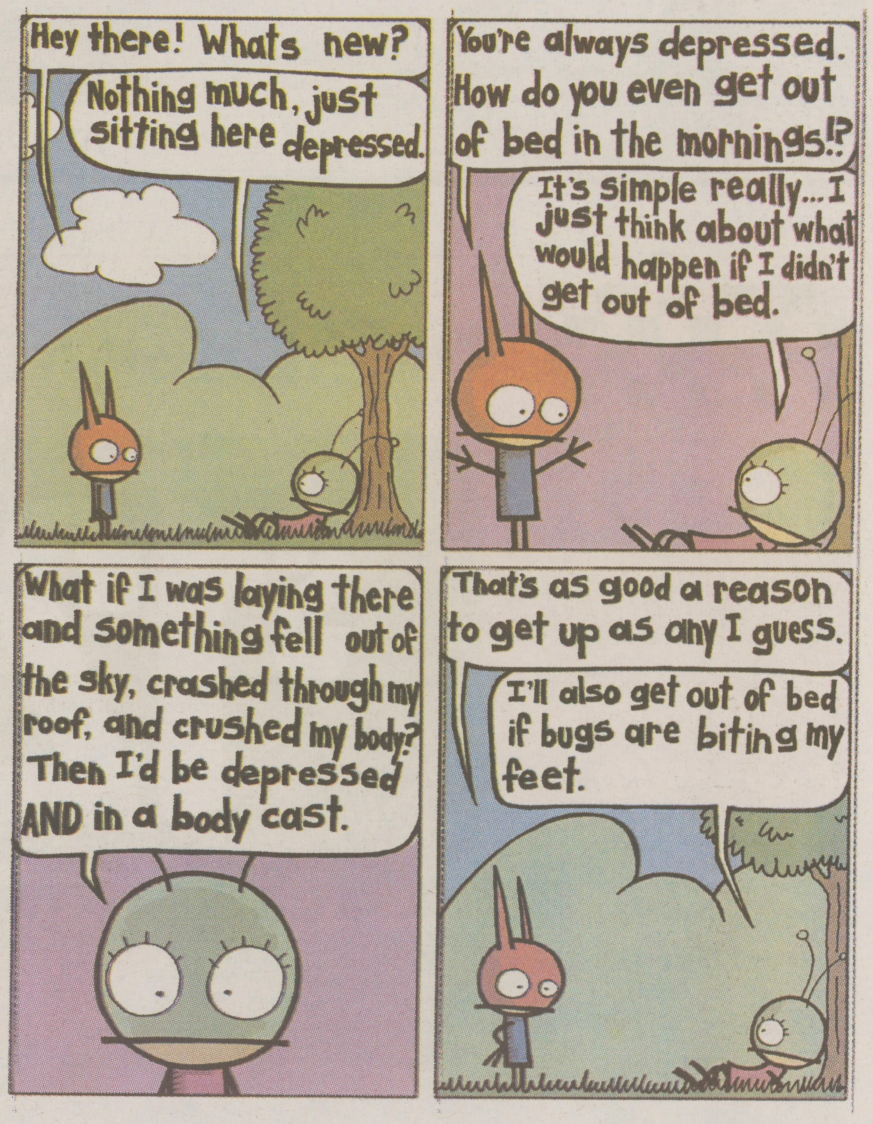
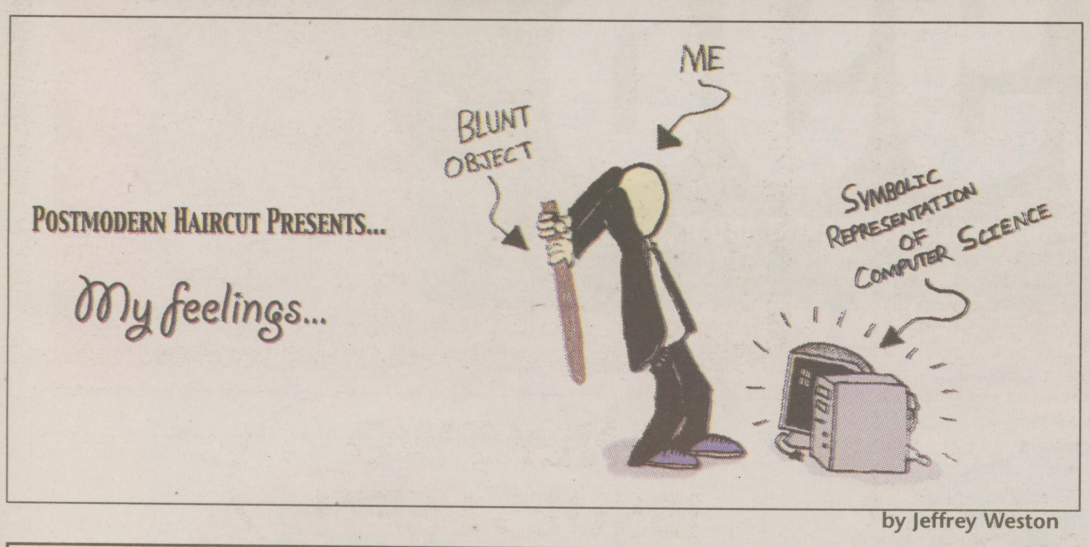
eMail Joe: jpetter@uvic.ca
Who LIKES shopping for women's clothing!
Joe?
Are you OK?
Are't you supposed to be out shopping with Sara?
<I am, he-he-he>

The Gogmagogs

by Jamie Armes (CUP)


Hey there! Whats new?
Nothing much, just sitting here depressed.
You're always depressed. How do you even get out of bed in the mornings!?
It's simple really...I just think about what would happen if I didn't get out of bed.
What if I was laying there and something fell out of the sky, crashed through my roof, and crushed my body? Then I'd be depressed AND in a body cast.
That's as good a reason to get up as any I guess.
I'll also get out of bed if bugs are biting my feet.



by Jeffrey Weston

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The University of Victoria: A Celebration of Possibilities. "Recognizing the Past, Celebrating the Future." This event will bring groups and initiatives together from all pockets of the campus and surrounding community, and will ofer an entertaining and intellectuality stiumlating vision for the future. Keynote speakers, roundtable discussions, music! Tuesday, April 1. 11-5. Michèle Pujol Room, SUB. Open to Public.

The Armed With Understanding lecture series presents: MEL HURTIG—author, activist, publisher. "The Vanishing Country: Is it too late to save Canada?" Fri. April 4, 7 p.m. David Lam Auditorium. FREE OF CHARGE. http://uvss.uvic.ca/awu/

On behalf of the UVic Society for Indian Classical Arts (SICA), CFUV 101.9, and the Students of Colour Collective, I invite you to join us at a beautiful evening of classical music and dance from India, called Tarana. Saturday, March 29. Doors open at 7 p.m., show begins at 7:30 p.m. David Lam Auditorium in the McLaurin Building. Adv ticks $8, at door $10. Tick venues: CFUV in the Student Union Building, Munro's Bookstore on Government Street, or Island Video on Douglas Street (near Walmart). Featuring the following guest artists: Gargy Banerjee, Odissi dancer; Niel Golden, Tabla artist; and Deepak Sarkar, vocalist. For more info, call 721-8607.

off campus

We know it's Monday, but that never stopped you before. Party like a rockstar w/ AMPS TO ELEVEN, THE SPAN and CORNERSTONE until you puke all the way through Tuesday. YEAH! Lucky Bar. Doors @ 9:00. $5

Wing Chun Kung Fu Self Defence. Five minute walk from UVic. www.sprtingtimesong.com 383-0408.

The MEVA Association (for Chronic Fatigue S.) will be having certified professional "Life Coaches" at their next support meeting on Tues. April 15, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Clinic Room, Capital Heatlh Region Offices, 2nd floor – 3995 Quadra St.; in the McKenzie-Quadra Saanich centre. Newcomers welcome! 388-4478 or 384-4783. me.victoria@shaw.ca http://members.shaw.ca/me.victoria

announcements

On Sunday, April 13, walk, roll or run along Oak Bay's gorgeous waterfront and help improve the quality of life for people living with Multiple Sclerosis. Participate in the Super Cities WALK/Run for MS presented by RBC Financial Group. Join us at the starting line at Windsor Park for fun, fitness and fundraising. To register or for information, visit our website at www.supercitieswalk.com or call the Victoria MS Society at (250) 388-6496.

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accommodations

Huge, beautiful master bedroom available (preferably for a couple) in Fernwood home for May 1st. It's a fantastic place including washer/dryer, dishwasher, and your own bathroom! If you're laid-back and reasonably tidy call me, your potential future roommate, at 598-3468. (ASAP please!).

Big room available in spaciously strange house for the summer. comes with 2.5 great male roommates (one orange cat). Also comes with numerous silly perks such as: limitless free bread, incredible water pressure, and spooky basement. Room comes equipped with strange furnishings and Pentium 4 with Shaw internet. Cook/Quadra intersection (across the street from Thrifty's). $300/month + utils. Call Devin/Matt or Greg: 995-9284.

hey you

So you like oversized wooley socks, eh? If you want them back bring six cookies to Squid Head's home by 1:30 Tuesday. Mwah ha ha... (evil laugh).

Ummmm. What happened last summer? Oh, now I get it. I'm still looking; where should I drive next? (and I thought I'd be the lucky one).

Spin Cycle Fan – Trying to deify me? Possible telepathic capabilities and my own fanclub. I'm controlled confusion, and you, I didn't catch your real name. Mia is missing in action. And Gymfan, while she may be body-heat activated, needs to work on her night moves. So don't sweat the competition unless you're looking for an excuse to strip away the veneer and show me something more revealing. – M.S.

I know you're wearing orange so I know you're not to be trusted. Keep up the troublemaking, comrade.

Ryan – the soup is beginning to worry me, I think it winked at me yesterday as I was grabbing change for a cup of Joe. Maybe it's just because I'm a fuffleneuse ('cuz I'm fuzzy). – Bunny

Oh, M.S., what r we gonna do? I'm just a simple girl and now I have to contend with Spin Cycle Fan *and* Mia. Three's too many, even for you, but maybe SCF and I could make a sports editor sandwich? Or maybe the three of us can fight over you. What's the penalty if I rip Mia's shirt and pull SCF's hair? Yours, Gymfan.

Hey Amsterdam Dame. Stephanie, I warned you that names would be next. I still can't find your email. You must be really mad by now! So email me: whatsthat@canada.com

Lucky: You want to see me again, but I'm still too afraid to talk. I know we'll just fight a second time, despite last summer, and you know it too. I'm thinking, "Just stay away, and don't come back." – Nathan.

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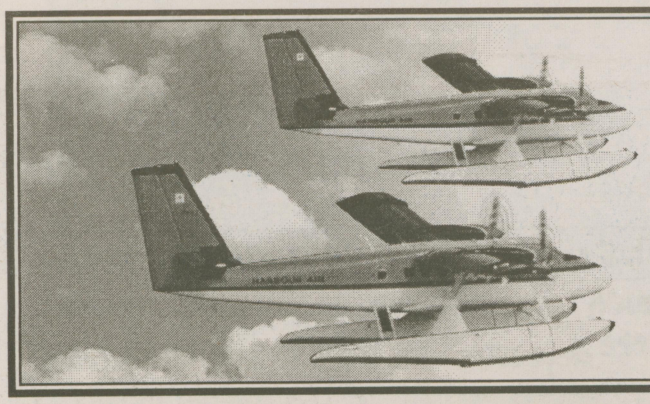

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